FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 FEBRUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force hit a "large maritime target" near Khark Island on 27 February, Iraq announced in an official statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, Lloyds of London revealed that three "unidentified" planes attacked a Greek oil tanker heading toward Dubayy that day, according to KUNA. The agency noted that the aircraft used guns rather than rockets or missiles.

Egypt-Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, affirmed Israel's support "without any qualification" for "direct" negotiations in Cairo with either a Jordanian or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include PLO representatives. This follows Peres' 27 February meeting with Egyptian presidential envoy 'Abd al-Halim Badawi who conveyed a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on promoting the peace process, IDF radio stated. Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at a Hague news conference that Egypt's initiative is aimed at influencing the United States to approach the PLO, adding that the Egyptians are primarily interested in a meeting between Jordan, the Palestinians, and the United States, Jerusalem radio reported.

President Mubarak has asked Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to formulate an "integrated plan" for backing the Jordanian-Palestinian move, according to Cairo radio. Mubarak believes that a dialogue between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the United States to prepare for "expanded negotiations" must be the next move, the radio noted.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad discussed "all aspects" of the Middle East situation during talks with visiting PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Damascus radio reported. In an arrival statement carried by SANA, the South Yemeni leader praised Syria's "cohesion" with the Palestinian revolution, and sharply criticized the PLO-Jordanian agreement as an "infringement" of the Palestinian people's right to return and to statehood. The Amman agreement also ignores PNC resolutions and undermines efforts to restore PLO unity, he contended.

The PLO-Jordanian agreement was likewise denounced in a statement issued by Arab communist and labor parties at the end of their conference in Damascus. According to SANA, the statement said the agreement proves that the PLO's "rightist leadership led by Yasir 'Arafat" is pursuing a policy that has "greatly harmed" the Palestinian cause.

In a separate development, two Syrians expelled from West Berlin were responsible for hijacking a Frankfurt-Damascus flight to Vienna in an attempt to obtain political asylum in Austria, according to DPA. The hijackers surrendered after failing to achieve their demands.

Lebanon

Israeli military sources described a 27 February incident between the IDF and the Lebanese Army as a "mistake," Jerusalem television reported. An Israeli tank had fired a warning shell at Lebanese soldiers near Al-Nabatiyah after the latter fired at IDF soldiers who were chasing a group of "terrorists," according to the television. Meanwhile, SANA reported that the Syrian foreign minister said his country will not leave Lebanon to face Israel alone, a statement which Jerusalem television viewed as a reaction to the IDF-Lebanese firing incident.

As for the current tension between Israel and UNIFIL, the latter is "extremely disturbed" by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's harsh criticisms of the French contingent, a UNIFIL spokesman disclosed in remarks cited by AFP. The French Government summoned the Israeli ambassador to the Quai d'Orsay to protest Rabin's remarks, which it considers as "inadmissible," according to Paris radio. Nevertheless, the ambassador subsequently announced that the incident caused by Rabin's remarks had been "settled," Jerusalem radio reported.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi discussed bilateral cooperation with PRC State Councillor Zhang Jingfu during the latter's visit to Iran, IRNA reported.

Western Sahara

Saharan Information Ministry statements, reported by Algiers radio and APS, claimed that the Saharan Liberation Army killed 42 Moroccan soldiers and wounded 67 others during attacks near Bu Craa on 25 and 26 February. Meanwhile, a Polisario Front spokesman in Madrid expressed regret over the shooting down of a German D-228 plane on 24 February, noting that this is the same type of plane used by Moroccans for military reconnaissance, according to Madrid radio.

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'Arafat Sends Message to YAR Leader on Jordan Accord

JN271811 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a personal message to brother YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message was conveyed by Brother Sakhr Abu Nizar, secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. Our correspondent has learned that the message dealt with Arab and Palestinian developments. Brother Abu 'Ammar's message acquainted the YAR president with the circumstances of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement.

Our correspondent said that Brother Sakhr Abu Nizar briefed the YAR president on the explanatory memoranda, which are regarded as part of the agreement. The agreement is based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; to establish an independent Palestinian state as part of a confederal union between Jordan and Palestine; and their right to have the PLO, as part of a joint Arab delegation, participate in an international conference on an equal basis with the permanent members of the Security Council. Brother Sakhr Abu Nizar affirmed that the move adheres to the Arab Fes Summit resolutions and UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue, as well as to Palestinian legitimacy, which is represented by the PNC resolutions.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih reiterated his country's firm, continuing support for the Palestinian issue, the Palestinian people's just struggle, and the resolutions of PLO institutions, committees, and bodies, the foremost of which is the PLO Executive Committee.

PLO Official Claims Jordan Text Version Inaccurate

GF271602 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 27 Feb 85 pp 1, 16

[Tabit Milkawi dispatch from Abu Dhabi]

[Excerpt] Sakhr Habash, PLO ambassador in Moscow and secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, said that what Jordan declared and called the text of the agreement with the PLO is not what the two sides agreed upon. He added : "There are some falsifications, the addition of a few words, and imposition of Jordan's point of view to explain some articles, particularly concerning the joint delegation." The text issued by Jordan also includes the expression "the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation" and this is outside of the agreement. Yasir 'Arafat cautioned the Jordanian side from the beginning on this issue. Moreover, Jordan presented the draft agreement while it was still under discussion in spite of the mistakes in it, which included the wording of the text "based on the spirit of the Fes summit while originally it was based on the decisions of the Fes summit." Habash said that the Jordanian text also withdrew the right to self-determination from the Palestinian people and affirmed that the Palestinian side warned about these Jordanian alterations. He also confirmed its adherence to the right to self-determination in accordance with the decisions of the PNC and the Fes summit.

Habash revealed that the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee conditioned their acceptance of the agreement on Jordan's approval of the amendments that were made in the agreement.

Habash stressed that whatever was agreed upon with Jordan was a "draft agreement" and not an agreement; its ratification stipulated its study in the Palestinian arena. He said: "We agreed with Jordan not to declare it before getting an approval on the explanations with regards to its articles."

Habash considered Jordan's declaration of the agreement's text a violation of the agreement and said: "After the leading Palestinian circles discussed it and discovered its gaps they sent a clarification memo from Yasir 'Arafat to King Husayn on this subject. Jordan's answer was to issuing the draft agreement claimingthat it was the agreement that had been approved.

Habash said: "We cannot approve the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation because this is what the Americans want in order to force concessions and to keep the Palestinians distant from the evolution and achievements they realized, including the PLO being the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Habash made this statement to *AL-KHALIJ* during his stopover in Abu Dabi yesterday.

PLO Spokesman Criticizes Syria's Al-Zu'bi

JN271750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] A Palestinian spokesman has stated the following: The so-called Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the Syrian regime's spokesman, announced his regime's determination to foil the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, describing it as resembling the agreement that was signed between Lebanon and Israel. We regret that this official should make such a serious statement, likening Arab countries to Israel.

However, let Al-Zu'bi, the likes of him, and his masters remember that all of the Syrian regime's attempts to conceal the crime of the new Camp Murphy between Al-Asad and Murphy will not be achieved, even through assailing the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement — a decision that was adopted by the Palestinian people's representatives at the PNC sessions in Algiers and Amman. Let it be known to him and to the likes of him that the Syrian people themselves will punish all those who are involved with suspect deals with our Arab nation's enemies.

Tal'at Ya'qub Criticizes Moves by Egypt, Jordan

JN272022 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1940 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 27 Feb (SANA) — Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, has affirmed that the statements made by Husni Mubarak, the head of the Camp David regime in Egypt, have explained the purport of the Amman agreement and the true nature of the Jordanian-Egyptian moves; these moves are actually aimed at liquidating the Palestine question and the PLO, and canceling the PLO's role as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a statement published here today, Ya'qub said that the Amman agreement is based on the concepts that have been explained by the head of the Egyptian regime. He added that the policy of deviation and capitulation pursued by the rightwing elements in the PLO leadership provides a cover for the liquidation of the Palestine question; it also provides cover for the moves of the Egyptian regime, which is still continuing on the path of Camp David and reactivating its relationship with the Zionist entity.

Ya'qub affirmed that by abandoning the principle of independent representation, the Amman agreement eliminates Arab and international recognition of the PLO. Furthermore, he said, the suspect reactionary calls for Arab solidarity and an Arab summit inder the present circumstances are aimed at peddling and legalizing imperialist-Arab reactionary plans through the summit.

Ya'qub called on the masses of the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied homeland, as well as on all Palestinian groups, forces, national figures, and all strugglers in the Fatah movement to struggle against the Amman agreement in order to preserve the national cause and the PLO's national line.

Fatah's Al-Natshah Reaffirms Rejection of 242

PM270900 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Feb 85 pp 1-2

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Al-Natshah to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*: No Palestinian Commitment to Any Agreement Containing Approval of Resolution 242"]

[Text] Riyadh — Arab and international reactions have continued since the announcement of the text of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement signed on 11 February. The latest was a statement by Rafiq al-Natshah (Abu Shakir), Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, who emphasized that any agreement stipulating approval of Resolution 242 is null and void and nobody in the Palestinian arena will be committed to it.

In reply to a question by *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* on his view of the Palestinian position after the Jordanian announcement of the agreement without mentioning the amendments requested by the PLO and handed to King Husayn of Jordan by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Al-Natshah said that the Palestinian concept of the present and future position falls within the framework of the following "invariables":

1. Nobody in the Palestinian leadership has a right to make a decision or conclude an agreement that violates PNC resolutions.

2. No member of the Palestinian leadership, be it the PLO Executive Committee or Fatah's Central Committee, has expressed any willingness to accept Resolution 242. Therefore, any agreement containing such acceptance is considered null and void and nobody in the Palestinian arena will be committed to it.

3. The PLO has the exclusive legitimate right to represent the Palestinian people at Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

4. The Palestinian people's right to self-determination is sacrosanct and cannot be evaded with any ambiguous phrases. It must be clear to everyone that our people, who have sacrificed scores of thousands of martyrs throughout their long history, have a right to determine their own fate without the tutelage of any Arab or international side. Our people will never accept anything short of an independent state on the liberated Palestinian territory.

5. If the phased policy pursued by the PLO over the past years is not clear and if that policy is at the expense of the main principles of the PLO and the Palestinian revolution, we will have to reconsider it because some people seem to have misinterpreted it.

6. Everyone must understand that the Palestinian revolution's principles cannot be tampered with and that the blood spilt for these principles will not be in vain, God willing. Our people have not made these great sacrifices for the sake of an inadequate referendum but in order to liberate their homeland Palestine and so that they could be masters of their own homeland on their own territory.

Fatah's Khalaf Interviewed on PLO-Jordan Agreement

JN222224 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1917 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal, on the "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date and place not specified —recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] The PLO Executive Committee, which Dr George Habash does not recognize, agreed on the [Jordanian-PLO] agreement with reservations. This has made the PFLP secretary general describe its [PLO Executive Committee] statement as a deceitful. These reservations formed the beginning of our dialogue with Abu Iyad. Let us hear it.

[Khalaf] I believe that it is more an affirmation of principles than reservations, since the statement containing the agreement on the plan for joint action contained a number of ambiguous clauses [words indistinct] which some may interpret differently . Therefore, a number of modifications were made and sent to Jordan, so that these ambiguous clauses are taken care ofin the joint agreement. Thus, I believe that the Executive Committee statement aimed at asserting the main principles regarding the PLO as the legitimate representative without sharing in the representation, and regarding all the resolutions on the Palestinian national [word indistinct]. In my opinion, it is merely asserting the principles rather than expressing reservations.

[Nawfal] However, what is the Fatah Central Committee stand on the agreement?

[Khalaf] Actually, there are two viewpoints within the Central Committee. One is that if the agreement is presented with the modifications, it could be suitable for the next stage of action. However, there are a number of concerns in the Central Committee that there should be absolutely no ambiguous clauses in an agreement on which two sides could base their moves. All clauses

should be clear. For example, there are two fundamental points. First, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination within the framework of a Palestinian state with a confederal union with Jordan. This point must be clear and should not contain any ambiguity. Second, regarding the representation. We have been fighting for more than 20 years in order to achieve a Palestinian representation. This is because the Zionist onslaught has been principally aimed at denying the Palestinian people's right to self-representation. Some Zionist claims even went as far as saying that the Palestinian people do not exist. The PLO and contemporary revolution have given our Palestinian people their right to have a representation. The joint delegation could be interpreted as being composed primarily of Jordanians with some Palestinians, and not a delegation representing the PLO in any future peace negotiations. Thus, we insisted on an Arab delegation, since it could include the PLO as an independent, principal delegation.

[Nawfal] How was the issue of representation exactly mentioned in the text?

[Khalaf] After the international conference in which all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative, take part.[sentence as heard] However, the problem of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation does not at all mean that the Palestinian delegation is independently represented but that it could be within the Jordanian delegation, especially if we want to hold a dialogue with the United States on the proposed agreement. The United States does not recognize the PLO or the independent state. Therefore, the issue of representation should be very clear. The Palestinians should not be within a Jordanian delegation.

[Nawfal] What is the future of dialogue between the resistance factions, especially since you were the most prominent Fatah member to participate in the secret or open dialogue? Do you believe that dialogues will stop in light of the current differences in the Palestinian arena?

[Khalaf] I believe that there are two types of differences in the arena. There are differences that cannot be resolved, because quite frankly they are related to the Damascus stand. Does Damascus wish the issue of the organization or the dialogue to be settled or not? There are a number of organizations whose moves are not inspired by their own views but by what Damascus tells them. However, regarding the Democratic Allaince, I do not believe that all hopes of a dialogue with them are lost. Quite the contrary, I believe that the Algiers-Aden agreement can be revived and that some of the disputed points in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement can be clarified. This is because there is not a single Palestinian leader, whether he signed the agreement or not, who would give up the idea of a Palestinian state or independent delegation. I do not believe that we were surprised by the slander, abuse, and foul statements made by those who have always sought to distort the Palestinian struggle, whether there was an agreement or not, whether there was a dialogue with Jordan or not. However, I trust those from the Democratic Alliance who truly are apprehensive. I believe that things must be explained to them and that they have the right to object to something in which they did not participate. Thus, there are two kinds of differences: one that is linked to Damascus and cannot be resolved unless Damascus wishes to end this difference, and the other kind, those whom we regard as independents in the arena and with whom it is possible to easily hold a dialogue — which could be achieved in the near future.

[Nawfal] Can you name some of those?

[Khalaf] I can name them. They are the National Alliance. I do not believe that any one of them can make his own decision. They receive their orders and execute them. They raise big slogans merely for local consumption. Whenever they face a crisis, they exploit whatever incidents or moves happen to be around at the time. They truly cannot make any decision, and consequently they exploit any move. Had the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement clearly included the PLO in all of its clauses, they would still have opposed it. However, regarding the Democratic Alliance, it has various sides with special conditions. For example, I have always hoped that Dr George Habash would not be drowned in the resounding phrases such as treason and traitors, because he might soon retreat from such phrases. However, regarding our comrades in the Democratic Front and the communists, I respect them and I believe that they have the right to criticize, understand, and realize in which direction this move is heading. Moreover, we cannot deny our brothers in the PFLP this right. However, they should realize that there are nationalists and progressive people in Fatah who would not sell out this cause in favor of King Husayn or any other Arab leader. Quite the contrary, they adhere to the basic principles on which we agreed. No joint move with Jordan could be a means of infringing on the great march. They know this because we fought military battles with them [words indistinct].

[Nawfal] Shim'on Peres for the first time did not rule out the possibility of Israel's participation in an international conference, but with certain conditions [words indistinct]. However, judging by the violent reaction of opponents, it seems that moves toward a solution are serious this time. What do you think?

[Khalaf] I believe that Peres was not clear on the international conference, because they have fundamental objections to it, particularly with regard to the USSR's participation in this conference. They say that the USSR has no diplomatic relations with Israel, and there is the issue of Jewish immigration. Therefore, there are real differences. I believe that Israel will ultimately agree to this international conference, because it is the only framework that could bring the disputing sides together and prevent the issue from being one of separate deals or separate peace deals. The Israelis have tried this with Egypt. In my opinion, although they won the treaty, they lost the Egyptian people and real peace.

Therefore, there should be a conference to tackle the crux of the issue. Such an international conference will bring all the sides together, including the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative. We as [word indistinct] are willing to attend such an international conference and to face all the issues and problems through negotiations. However, to say after all these long years that there is only Jordan to bring a number of representatives, who have nothing to do with the PLO, into direct negotiations will not achieve just, permanent peace nor will it be accepted by the Arab countries. Thus, I hope that all those who want peace

in the region will work toward convening this international conference [words indistinct].

[Nawfal] Undoubtedly, Abu Iyad has his own stand. Do you quite frankly agree with the final form of the agreement?

[Khalaf] Frankly, I have reservations.

[Nawfal] A final question. What do you think of the reappearance of Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]?

[Khalaf] I beleive that Abu Nidal did not disappear in the first place. He has never disappeared. I am surprised by what he said. I believe that Abu Nidal is merely a facade or front through which a number of Arab regimes move. There is no such thing as Abu Nidal. There are groups that have been used by this or that Arab country. I do not want to start any battles now. There is no such thing as Abu Nidal. There are Arab regimes that exploit this name. According to my information, Abu Nidal's name is used now and has been linked to killing Palestinians and the Palestinian people's legitimate representatives. They are bringing him back these days to remind people that there is a ghost named Abu Nidal. However, this ghost frightens only those who can be frightened. Those who know their people and principles are not frightened by these ghosts or dummies that are moved by some Arab regimes.

Arab Group on Iraqi-Iranian War Formed in Paris

JN221325 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1314 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Paris, 22 Feb (INA) — An Arab diplomatic group has been formed here to follow up Iraqi-Iranian war developments and to implement the Arab 7-member ministerial committee's resolutions in this respect. The group comprises the Iraqi, Moroccan, Tunisian, Jordanian, Kuwaiti, and YAR ambassadors to France and is headed by Dr Youssef ben Abbes, Moroccan ambassador and doyen of the Arab diplomatic corps in Paris. At its first meeting the group discussed its plan of action in the French political and information arenas.

PLO Radio Details Attacks on Zionists in S. Lebanon

JN271935 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] — The heroes of the Palestinian and Lebanese joint forces are escalating their operations against the personnel and vehicles of the Zionist occupation forces and their agents in occupied southern Lebanon. The heroes of the joint forces used machineguns and rockets to attack a Zionist military patrol yesterday while it was passing near (?Saridah) in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack destroyed a military vehicle, damaged another, and killed or wounded their occupants.

The heroes of the joint forces also detonated remote-controlled, high explosive charges yesterday while a Zionist military patrol was passing near (?Qalqilya) in the occupied south. The explosion destroyed a large Zionist military truck, and killed or injured its occupants.

The heroes of the joint forces also detonated explosive charges while a military vehicle was carrying the leader of the agent forces in (?Jarjurah) in the occupied south yesterday. The explosion destroyed the vehicle, and killed or wounded its occupants. The heroes of the joint forces also attacked a Zionist military post near Burj al-Shamali refugee camp in Tyre, in occupied southern Lebanon yesterday. The attack, which was carried out with machineguns and rockets, killed or wounded a number of Zionist soldiers and severely damaged the Zionist post.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted these operations, but, as usual, concealed his losses or those of his agents. He said that his forces and elements of the agent militias besieged the areas of operation, launched large-scale search and arrest campaigns, arrested a large number of citizens on charges of assisting the heroes of the joint forces, who withdrew safely to base.

PLO Radio Outlines Resistance Operations 26-27 Feb

JN271951 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continue to escalate their armed operations against the personnel and vehicles of the Zionist occupation forces and the gangs of the Zionist settlers, inflicting further losses in personnel and equipment . This is in accordance with the revolution leadership's policy and in compliance with its resolutions on escalating the armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main conflict arena. A Palestinian military spokesman has declared that a group of our revolutionaries threw hand grenades yesterday morning at a restaurant in the center of Tel Aviv which is frequented by Zionist soldiers. The attack caused great damage to the restaurant, and killed or wounded a number of Zionist soldiers. A group of our revolutionaries also detonated a remote-controlled explosive charge in the center of Ashdod port, in occupied Palestine, yesterday morning. The explosion killed or wounded a number of Zionist soldiers. The Zionist enemy radio admitted the two oeprations, but concealed its losses. The radio said that its forces immediately launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on charges of being connected with the two operations.

The Palestinian military spokesman also declared the following: A fighting group of our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland was able to plant highly explosive charges inside the Ashqelon industrial zone. The explosion on Tuesday morning, 26 February , caused great material damage to a number of factories inside the zone. Several enemy personnel were either killed or wounded. Our revolutionaries inside the occupied homeland used hand grenades to attack a patrol of so-called civilian guards in the center of Tel Aviv today. The attack scored a direct hit on the patrol vehicle, killing or wounding its occupants.

The enemy radio admitted the two operations and claimed, as usual that they did not result in any losses or casualties for its forces. The radio said that the occupation authorities launched a large-scale arrest campaign against scores of Palestinian citizens in the Ashqelon and Tel Aviv areas on charges of complicity in the two operations.

GULF AFFAIRS

KUNA: Greek Oil Tanker Attacked in Gulf

LD271643 Kuwait KUNA in English 1524 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] London, Feb 27 (KUNA) — A Greek oil tanker, the *Captain John Levanos*, was attacked in the Gulf Wednesday [27 Feb] Lloyds of London shipping intelligence said.

The 123,648-ton vessel came under fire from three unidentified aircraft using their guns, Lloyds learnt from the Greek Ministry of Mercantile (?Marine). No rockets or missiles were fired at the vessel which was hit at 12.15 Greek time, the ministry said.

The tanker was proceeding to Dubayy for a survey of the damage caused. On board was a crew of 15 Greek and 14 Pakistanis, Lloyds noted.

When hit, the ship was at position 26.15n, 52.45e.

BAHRAIN

Daily on Jordanian-Palestinian Agreement

GF261402 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 26 Feb 85 pp 1, 4

[Editorial]

[Text] The United States is feeling optimistic and believes that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement includes some positive elements. However, the parties must agree on the need to begin negotiations so that a new U.S. peace initiative may be presented. This is the stand which the U.S. White House announced yesterday. It means pouring cold water in winter over all the hopes which are pinned on Washington regarding the agreement announced in Amman.

The agreement was the most that the PLO could give while preserving the recognized meaning of its name, and the least of the aims which it has defined for itself. The agreement implies clear Palestinian concessions, among which is the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 242 which states, on the one hand, that the Jewish state has the right to exist "within unknown boundaries," and that the Palestinians are merely refugees, on the other. Other concessions are giving up an independent Palestinian state or representing the Palestinians by an independent delegation in any future negotiations in the Middle East. These concessions are the positive elements which Washington sees. More is demanded.

The PLO presented the agreement in order to draw the attention of the Americans, and to have their good offices. This will not happen because the United States is not the neutral mediator that wants to bring the parties closer. Rather, it is biased to one of the parties and wants to bring the others closer to it. Washington moves according to the conditions that the Israelis dictate. The Israelis stipulate that the Arabs must recognize them as they are and hold direct negotiations with them without Arab conditions and without a PLO presence.

Consequently, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has not had the desired effect. As long as attention is directed at Washington, the Arabs and the Palestinians will face further demands to make concessions, unless their quest for peace is supported by some force which can achieve their rights by other means.

SAUDI ARABIA

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives 27 Feb

LD272256 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Feb (SPA) — Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian minister of foreign affairs and member of the Political Bureau, arrived in Riyadh this evening on a visit to the Kingdom. He was received at King Khalid International Airport by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Ibrahim al-'Anqari and Algerian Ambassador to the Kingdom Tejini Haddam.

Received by King Fahd

LD281056 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this afternoon received His Excellency Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian Foreign Minister and member of the FLN Political Bureau, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi had arrived in Riyadh last night.

Cooperation Stressed for Upcoming EEC-GCC Talks

LD280027 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] GCC experts and EEC representatives will begin meetings tomorrow at Al-Manamah to discuss the Gulf petrochemical exports to EEC countries.

In today's world, mutual interests play a more important and prominent role in the international arena. As is known, the road of cooperation is a two-way road. In view of this, the countries establish cooperation between each other on the basis of exchanging benefits and preserving their common interest.

The Arab world in general and GCC members in particular established relations with the international community on the basis of mutual benefits. However, the balance of payments of these countries with the Arab world now favors the world's industrialized countries because the Arab world still constitutes a traditional market for manufactured goods, whether in the field of developing technology or consumer goods. Hence, the return favors the industrialized countries, particularly since GCC members constitute the third largest market for EEC exports after the United States and the European free trade zone bloc. Furthermore, GCC members import 33 percent of their needs from the EEC.

This underscores the importance of cooperation between the two sides and the need to implement this cooperation on the basis of

mutual interest and fairness without one side securing all its needs and ignoring the interests of the other.

Tomorrow's talks at Al-Manamah come at a time when there is a growing need for the European side to take into consideration the growing interests of GCC members. But the recent EEC decision to raise custom duties on Gulf petrochemical exports has aroused a feeling of disappointment because it constitutes an obstacle to continued Arab-European cooperation in various economic fields.

This feeling of disappointment has been reflected in the secretaries general of the Arab-European Chambers of Commerce during their recent meeting, as they interpreted the recent European measure toward the GCC petrochemical exports as an act contradicting the principle of free trade which EEC members have always advocated and which GCC members pursue.

These secretaries have also expressed their fears that the GCC might on its part impose protectionist measures in its trade exchange relations with the European countries on the basis of reciprocal treatment. Should this happen, it will not serve the interests of the European Community, particularly since Saudi Arabia's imports alone from EEC members reached about $20 billion in 1983, whereas total EEC imports from the Kingdom only amount to about half this sum. This resulted in a surplus in their trade dealings.

In view of this, tomorrow's meeting in Al-Manamah will have great importance and its results will have repercussions on future cooperation between the two countries.

UAE

Further Reportage on Visit of SFRY Foreign Minister

Meeting With President

GF271124 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Excerpt] The President, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sulman Al Nuhayyan, yesterday called on non-aligned countries to coordinate and intensify efforts among themselves to face and solve their problems without intervention from the superpowers.

Shaykh Zayid made the appeal during a meeting in Abu Dhabi yesterday with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic, who is currently visiting the country. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid, Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid and Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs. Mr Dizdarevic conveyed to Shaykh Zayid the greetings of Yugoslav President Veselin Djuranovic.

The meeting dealt with regional and international issues of mutual interest. The talks also focused on the situation in the Gulf, and the need to end the Iraq-Iran war which has drained the resources of both countries.

The Middle East crisis and the need to reach a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian problem were also discussed during the meeting.

Mr Dizdarevic's delegation and the UAE delegation led by Rashid 'Abdallah held official talks at the Foreign Ministry in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The two sides discussed a number of issues relating to economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Ya'qub al-Kindi, acting Foreign Ministry undersecretary said after the meeting that the two sides also discussed efforts exerted by the Non-aligned Movement to find a just solution to the Middle East problem to be based on recognising the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for self-determination and the establishment of their state.

Concludes Visit

GF280820 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Feb (WAKH) — Yugoslav Foreign Minister Mr Raif Dizdarevic left Abu Dhabi for home this morning, following a 3-day visit to the UAE.

During his visit, the Yugoslav minister met with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and held talks with a number of senior officials on bolstering joint cooperation in various fields and on a number of issues of mutual concern.

The Yugoslav minister was seen off by Mr Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs.

PRC Delegation Holds Talks, Tours Project

GF271616 Doha QNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Dubayy, 27 Feb (QNA) — A session of talks was held today between the UAE delegation of public works and housing which was led by Public Works and Housing Minister Muhammad Khalifah al-Kindi, and the PRC delegation which was led by Rui Xingwen, minister of urban and rural construction and environmental construction, and which is currently visiting the UAE.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of bolstering cooperation between the two countries in various fields of construction and housing, in addition to exchanging expertise and information in the field of planning cities and housing and in developing manpower in these fields.

During the meeting, the PRC minister expressed his country's readiness [words indistinct] with (?expertise) and technology in the field of executing the development plans, particularly those pertaining to construction.

The PRC minister and the accompanying delegation undertook an inspection tour of the public quarters in the Amirate of Al-Shariqah within a program set by the UAE Public Works and Housing Ministry designed to acquaint the PRC minister with the various work sites and factories in the various amirates of the state.

Al-'Utaybah on Oil Production, Pact With Japan

GF280840 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0738 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Feb (WAKH) — Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has disclosed that his country has signed new contracts increasing its oil and gas exports to Japan within the framework of the existing close ties between both countries. In an exclusive statement to *AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I*, Dr al-'Utaybah said that the UAE has maintained its share of exports to Japan despite a decline in production and despite problems in the world oil market.

He affirmed the UAE adherence to the recent OPEC decisions and said that the UAE now produces 1 million barrels a day in accordance with its allocated quota in OPEC's production ceiling, which totals 16 million barrels per day.

Dr al-'Utaybah added that the mission of the OPEC production control body will soon visit Abu Dhabi within the framework of the body's role of checking production. The UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources added that the OPEC oil-producing members will defend the rights of their peoples and will not allow any external power to strip them of their gains.

He noted the problem of price differentials, describing it as a permanent but nonetheless progressive problem. He said: "The decisions made recently at the Geneva conference are not ideal solutions, but it is a big step and a serious and brave attempt by the organization to solve this problem."

About the chances of success for the production control body in the present circumstances prevailing in the world oil market, Dr Mani' al-'Utaybah said: "The body started its work with seriousness. Positive effects have been seen in the market which markedly improved during the past few weeks and which are moving toward stability."

He said that the ministerial follow-up committee will hold its meeting in April to study the effects of OPEC's recent decisions on the petroleum market, and that the organization will hold a meeting next July to discuss new developments in this regard.

Mubarak Asks Foreign Ministry for Mideast Peace Plan

NC271917 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid today. Following the meeting, 'Abd al-Majid said that President Mubarak has entrusted the Foreign Ministry with formulating an integrated plan for backing the Jordanian-Palestinian move. The objective of this plan is to revive the peace march and to begin interactions that can bring about the desired change in the occupied Arab territory.

The foreign minister added that President Mubarak believes that the next step must be to start a dialogue between a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the U.S. Administration in order to determine in principle the areas open for action and to prepare for expanded negotiations. Following this, the situation can be assessed and the next steps defined. Naturally, the other parties who desire peace and want to contribute toward establishing peace can propose any steps they deem appropriate in order to maintain the momentum generated by the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement; they can also propose measures to prevent a stalemate that would threaten the basic Arab rights, primarily, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Mubarak Says U.S. 'Failed' To Understand Proposal

NC271507 Paris AFP in English 1446 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, Feb 27 (AFP) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak suggested here today that U.S. leaders had failed to fully understand his recent proposal for Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

Mr Mubarak, who will visit Washington next month, said in an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he was going there to provide a detailed rundown on both his call for the tripartite talks and the points of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of last February 11.

The talks proposal had run into reservations in Washington, he said, but suggested that perhaps U.S. leaders had not quite grasped the gist of it.

There was need for clarification, not only with Washington but also with Jordan and the Palestinians, President Mubarak said.

"Other proposals might be formulated by other parties, including Israel," he said, "but our aim remains an overall solution in the Middle East that does not neglect the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Asked about when and where an international conference on the Middle East might be held, Mr Mubarak replied: "In Cairo or elsewhere, if there is consensus among the parties concerned."

Mr Mubarak also said he would stick to the conditions he has laid down for a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres: Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, an agreement over the disputed Tabah enclave and the revival of the Middle East peace process.

"Otherwise," he said, "I shall lose all credibility with the Egyptian people."

Mr Mubarak, who in Washington will also be asking for increased U.S. aid to Egypt, said the rate of interest on Egypt's military debt to the United States was too high and damaging to Egypt's economy.

"To lighten the charges," he said, "would benefit both Egypt and the Egyptian people.

"In any event, Egypt certainly intends to pay its foreign debts," President Mubarak added. "It is a matter of time."

'Abd Al-Majid Views Israeli Withdrawal, Peace Talks

Withdrawal From Lebanon

NC271114 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Feb (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid warned that Israel's military actions in southern Lebanon will complicate the problem and make it worse. In a statement published in today's edition of the Saudi paper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, the foreign minister said that Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon is a constructive, but still incomplete step.

Answering a question on the possible return of Egypt's ambassador to Tel Aviv after the start of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Our conditions for the ambassador's return are known and declared. Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is one of them.

Replying to another question on the holding of an international Middle East peace conference, Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed Egypt's belief that an international conference is one way to solve the problem. All parties concerned should take part. [word indistinct] welcomes any way to reactivate the Middle East situation in order to give an impetus to the peace process. This is Egypt's clear and unambigious position.

Egyptian Peace Policy

NC272157 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has declared that peace is a basic tenet of Egypt's foreign policy. He said that peace is linked to stability and both are indispensable for laying the groundwork for democratic life and cultural progress. He said that Egypt's endeavor for peace and progress is an integral objective, unanimously supported at home, and the subject of universal appreciation.

Addressing the National Studies Institute tonight, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt is striving to achieve peace despite the difficulties and obstacles facing it. He stressed that the PLO is the leader of the Palestinian people's struggle and that it has

gained international status and the support of all peace-loving peoples.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the positive response to President Mubarak's practical proposals and Egypt's determination to achieve peace indicate that future developments will mark the beginning of a distinctive stage in Mideast events; this stage could lead to a settlement of the Palestinian problem and achieve the ultimate objective of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He said that Egypt has clarified its position on the need for an end to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, for the restoration of Tabah, and for progress in resolving the Palestinian problem as the main factors for progress toward a new stage in relations between Egypt and Israel.

In conclusion, 'Abd al-Majid said that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has given Israel a great opportunity to advance toward peace. He said that he is confident that Egypt's role as a force for peace and moderation will persuade peace-loving parties and forces to promote the peace process with serious and steady steps.

Israel's Tamir Arrives for Meeting With Mubarak

NC280941 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, Feb 28 (AFP) — Israeli Envoy General Avraham Tamir arrived here today for talks with President Husni Mubarak at the latter's private residence in Heliopolis.

Gen Tamir, a chief adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, was also scheduled to meet Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali later today.

His visit follows high-level Egyptian-Israeli talks in Jerusalem and the announcement by Mr Peres that he accepts an Egyptian proposal for an international conference on the Middle East in Cairo.

'Ali Receives Israeli Energy Minsiter in Cairo

NC271629 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today received Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Petroleum Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, and Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason.

Supply Minister Returns From East European Tour

NC280912 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — Dr Muhammad Naji Shatlah, minister of supply and internal trade, returned to Cairo this morning at the end of a tour that took him to the GDR, Hungary, and the CSSR. Dr Shatlah began his tour on 17 February and signed a number of agreements on developing economic cooperation with these countries.

Further Reports on Sierra Leonean President's Visit

Departs Aswan

NC271052 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Aswan, 27 Feb (MENA) — Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens left Aswan Airport this morning on his way back home at the end of a 1-day visit to Aswan which he made within the framework of his 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Joint Communique Issued

NC271553 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — Egypt and Sierra Leone have expressed satisfaction with the close cooperation and strong ties of friendship existing between the two countries. They have also reaffirmed their desire to consolidate and develop this cooperation, to boost relations in political, economic, cultural, and scientific spheres, and to increase the amount of technical expertise Egypt contributes to development efforts in Sierra Leone through the Egyptian fund for technical cooperation with Africa. In this regard, they have agreed to establish a joint committee to follow up the implementation of various areas of cooperation between the two countries. The first meeting of this committee will be held in Freetown before the end of 1985.

This is contained in a joint communique issued yesterday at the conclusion of a 2-day visit by Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens.

The two countries affirmed that the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon must be comprehensive and unconditional. It must also be in implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509 so that Lebanon may restore full sovereignty over its territory.

They affirmed their conviction that a just and permanent peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without recognizing the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination under the leadership of the PLO.

The two countries underlined the need for Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

They denounced Israel's policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories, and considered this an obstacle to efforts for finding a just, permanent, and peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem.

They welcomed the agreement reached between Jordan and the PLO, and considered it to be an important step toward achieving a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East problem.

They expressed the hope that the parties concerned would respond positively to this agreement.

The two countries expressed their concern over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, which poses a serious threat to the security,

peace, and stability of the area and the world. They affirmed the hope that the two sides would respond to the appeal of the world community to cease fire and settle their dispute by peaceful means.

The two countries stressed their firm adherence and commitment to the principles and goals of the Nonaligned Movement. They agreed to make joint efforts to support this movement and to achieve economic equilibrium between the North and the South.

They also expressed determination to do their utmost to ensure the success of the Nonaligned Ministerial Council meeting scheduled to be held in Luanda in September 1985.

The two countries expressed their full support for the people of Namibia in their struggle for independence under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole legitimate representative. They affirmed the need for an immediate and unconditional implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 issued in 1978. This resolution forms a sound basis for settling the Namibian problem and its implementation should not be linked to any extraneous factors.

The two leaders studied the situation in Chad and reaffirmed their support for the legitimate Chadian Government. They expressed the hope that national reconciliation will be achieved, the Chadian people will enjoy peace, and that they will restore their territorial integrity.

In this regard, they referred to Resolution No 121 issued by the 20th OAU summit conference, which invites the president of the People's Republic of the Congo to try, in cooperation with the president of the United Republic of Tanzania who is the current OAU chairman, to achieve national reconciliation. They urged all feuding factions to cooperate with these efforts.

The two leaders expressed the conviction that the settlement of the Western Sahara problem lies in the implementation of the OAU's resolutions, particularly Resolution No 103 issued by the 18th OAU summit held in Nairobi in 1981 and Resolution No 104 issued by the 19th summit held in Addis Ababa in 1983. These resolutions call for a referendum in the Western Sahara. They also expressed the hope that Morocco will reconsider its decision to withdraw from the OAU.

The two leaders affirmed their deep faith in and firm support for the OAU and the principles incorporated in its charter. They agreed to do their utmost to support the OAU and to safeguard its unity so that it will be able to perform its mission of preserving the unity and solidarity of Africa, and contribute effectively to both the resolution of African disputes and the economic development of Africa.

Both leaders denounced the inhuman practices of the racist regime of Pretoria. They expressed support for the declaration issued by the 20th OAU summit on conditions in South Africa. They also affirmed their absolute solidarity with the South African people's struggle to eliminate apartheid and racial segragation and to establish a society dominated by justice, freedom, and equality.

The presidents affirmed their adherence to the principles and objectives of the United Nations as incorporated in its Charter. They also underlined the effectiveness of the UN's role in safeguarding world peace and security.

They expressed their concern over the escalation of the arms race and affirmed the need to stop this race and achieve total and complete disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament.

They also affirmed the need to intensify efforts to make Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean free from nuclear weapons. They expressed their great interest in the Geneva talks between the United States and the Soviet Union and their hope that these talks will succeed in the interest of world peace and security.

President Siaka Stevens expressed his great gratitude and thanks for the warm hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. He invited President Husni Mubarak to pay an official visit to Sierra Leone. President Mubarak accepted the invitation with pleasure. The date of the visit will be set through diplomatic channels.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Muslim Brotherhood Leader

PM261445 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Feb 85 pp 33-35

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood Leader 'Umar al-Talmasani by Shirbil Zughayb in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-HAWADITH*: You are known to have opposed the peace agreement with Israel and disagreed with President al-Sadat on this issue. Do you still consider Egypt to be in a state of war with Israel or is the war cry finished forever?

Al-Talmasani: My opposition to the treaty still stands and will continue because I oppose the treaty on religious not political grounds. As a Muslim I condemn the surrender of Muslim land to non-Muslims.

AL-HAWADITH: However, the treaty gave the Muslim land back to its Muslim owners.

Al-Talmasani: We are still quarreling over Tabah. Not all Egyptian territory has been given back to Egypt. A part of the territory, that is Tabah, is still a point of contention and negotiation to this very day. Furthermore, there are certain things that the Egyptian Government cannot do in certain parts of Sinai. That means that we have not fully regained our territory because full restoration would mean that we can do what we like with it.

AL-HAWADITH: What has become of the negotiations with the government for the publication of *AL-DA'WAH* magazine?

Al-Talmasani: The press council has sent us the form that new magazine publishers are supposed to complete. We have done what is necessary in that connection and have also contacted the industry ministry because the magazine will be a company and not individually owned; this means that the Trade and Industry Ministry should have a say in this matter and ensure that the

necessary requirements are met, just like any other company. The form asks about the name and ownership of the company, the aims of the magazine, and its political line. It also requests that a sum of 50,000 pounds be deposited in a bank and that no non-Egyptians be involved. We, of course, have met all these requirements.

AL-HAWADITH: Have any political conditions been imposed before a permit could be granted for the publication of *AL-DA'WAH*?

Al-Talmasani: No conditions have been laid down, of course. *AL-DAW'WAH* is just like any other opposition magazine.

AL-HAWADITH: At present you are politically active through the Wafd Party, your ally. Is this alliance based on convictions or political tactics?

Al-Talmasani: What joins us with the Wafd Party is cooperation in the interest of the country, no more and no less. The Wafdists will not become a Muslim Brotherhood member, nor vice versa. There is no merger, only cooperation and alliance.

AL-HAWADITH: Does that mean that differences of opinion regarding the nature of relationship between you and the Wafd Party prevent a merger?

Al-Talmasani: There are no differences or disagreements whatsoever. We follow the same line, so much so that the Wafd leaders Fu'ad Siraj al-Din and Wahid Ra'fat have denied that the Wafd Party is a secular party and they emphasized that the party insists on the Islamic Shari'a. The party issued several statements to that effect and it was on this basis that we joined their election lists.

AL-HAWADITH: The People's Assembly has earmarked some sessions for studying ways to apply the Islamic Shari'a. Could such application materialize as easily as you think?

Al-Talmasani: Of course the Islamic Shari'a could be applied very easily. There is nothing strange about it and it embarrasses nobody.

AL-HAWADITH: However, Egyptian society includes several non-Muslim communities such as the Christian community. What would be the status of these people under the Islamic Shari'a?

Al-Talmasani: I do not understand why people dwell on this point. Everywhere in the West as well as in the East, the majority in any council of representatives is the side that legislates for the society. A legislation approved and ratified by the government and the head of state becomes law and it applies to the majority as well as the minority.

AL-HAWADITH: However, sectarian matters are not as much an issue in the West as they are in the East.

Al-Talmasani: Let me assure you that they are not an issue here in Egypt. I have visited the church and the pope received me very warmly and promised to return the visit at *AL-DA'WAH* magazine. Our relations are strong and extremely good.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the points of agreement and disagreement between you and the state?

Al-Talmasani: We agree with it in the call for the application of the Isamic Shari'a and we look forward to the day when the Islamic Shari'a will be enforced. We disagree with all the measures where the Islamic Shari'a has not been applied.

AL-HAWADITH: Have you applied to the state for the formation of a Muslim Brotherhood Party that would have a legal and legitimate status?

Al-Talmasani: We are thinking of forming a party to represent one aspect of the Muslim Brotherhood's activities. If the Consultative Council's Parties Committee approves our request to form a party then it would complement the work of the Muslim Brotherhood body which we insist upon.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you optimistic about normalization of Arab-Egyptian relations?

Al-Talmasani: If, in the eyes of the Arabs, Al-Sadat committed a mistake in concluding the Camp David treaty, an Arab boycott of Egypt is not the way to correct that mistake. They should unite in dealing with that mistake but boycott is definitely not the way to remedy the situation.

AL-HAWADITH: The Arabs boycotted the results of Camp David. These results are still there. How are they to be tackled in your view?

Al-Talmasani: I believe that the Egyptian president's steps toward uniting the Arabs and closing their ranks are good and I wish him success. I hope the Arab officials will realize that unity is a good thing for dealing with the mistakes and dangers of the Camp David treaty.

AL-HAWADITH: In your view, should the Arabs unite in order to wage a new war or in order to seek peace?

Al-Talmasani: I do not approve of war and I believe everything could be settled through negotiation.

AL-HAWADITH: In other words your support negotiations and peace with Israel.

Al-Talmasani: Let us not beat around the bush. Israel has usurped Palestinian territory and, frankly, that territory should return to its owners.

AL-HAWADITH: How could that be achieved without war?

Al-Talmasani: Through negotiations.

AL-HAWADITH: Negotiations with whom?

Al-Talmasani: With Israel.

AL-HAWADITH: And that would lead to peace?

Al-Talmasani: There can be no peace under the present conditions of Israel. If Israel wants to remain in Palestine as people it is welcome to do so provided the owners of the land, that is the Palestinians, rule.

AL-HAWADITH: In your view, is it possible for the Arabs to regain Palestine through the PLO?

Al-Talmasani: Of course it is possible but through negotiation not war because the PLO has so far achieved nothing through war. I criticize its attitude in this connection because it sometimes falls into the lap of Russia or other regimes and this will not achieve its objectives. I would like to draw your attention to one thing. I will never say everything that is on my mind and never reveal my cards to anyone. There are many things in my heart that I cannot divulge to anyone.

Ground Station for European Satellite Approved

NC271142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA) — The Foreign Ministry has authorized Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif to sign the agreements related to the completion of the program to set up the ground station for the European satellite. This will enable Egypt to communicate with the Atlantic, Indian, and the European satellites.

AL-WAFD Analyzes Mubarak's Upcoming U.S. Visit

PM270918 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Feb 85 pp 1,11

[Mustafa Shardi article: "The One Going to the United States on Bahalf of all Egyptians"]

[Text] This is probably the first time that the Egyptians observe both with astonishment and pleasure that the Presidency is correctly preparing for the extremely important trip President Husni Mubarak will make to the United States next month. We have been watching these preparations since late January, that is, more than a month before the trip. Unannounced activities probably began long before that.

We sincerely hope that preparations in Washington are on the same level, with the same degree of appreciation and interest. I do not recall in Egypt's history since the revolution that any of our presidents made a trip to the United States or elsewhere in the Western world that was as important as this trip might be in shaping Egypt's destiny and that of this troubled area of the world which is eager for stability. Also, I do not think that the U.S. capital or any European capital President Mubarak will visit has previously received an Egyptian or Arab leader under conditions as extremely complex as those of the talks in the White House and elsewhere.

The preparations that we are hoping for, and particularly from the U.S. Administration, is some kind of revised calculations and a careful examination in light of the new and changing conditions created by events both in the Middle East or the international arena.

The revision that we are hoping for, indeed demanding, is not essential for Egyptian or Arab interests as much as it is for the interests of the United States and all the West in general. The fact is that the U.S. computer has been feeding the White House with wrong data about the Middle East situation. What is strange is the fact that regardless of who is in the presidential post and of his name or the party to which he belongs, he acts in accordance with this data which Zionist hands have heavily tampered with and which reflectsTel Aviv's will more than facts.

We are not in a position to dictate to the U.S. Administration the elements of its calculations but we are in a position to discuss some of these basic elements that the Washington decisionmaker should take into account as he faces Husni Mubarak at the negotiating table.

The first element necessary for any calculations in the U.S. capital or any other capital is the fact that President Mubarak will arrive in Washington this time to speak on behalf of all Egyptians regardless of their party affiliations; he represents both the majority and the minority because there is no disagreement inside Egypt about the objectives, aspirations, and higher interests. There is disagreement only on the ways and means. We all are confident that Mubarak preserves our objectives, aspirations, and higher interests in the most cherished part of his heart and national conscience. How I wish the Arabs would wake up from their deep slumber and look around before it is too late in order to exploit Mubarak's trip to Washington, an opportunity that may not happen again in the future. I believe that the Arabs will be very sorry to have missed this opportunity, if they succumb to their bitter divisions and fail to inform the United States at the opportunate time that the Egyptian president, particularly on this visit, speaks for all Arabs based on firm Arab unanimity and not just for the Egyptian people.

Among the basic elements that the U.S. Administration should take into consideration is the fact that the Egyptian leader who will sit at the negotiating table in the White House before the middle of March is not begging for wheat and arms for his country or standing at anybody's door asking for aid for his people. Indeed he is demanding some of Egypt's rights for which the United States is responsible regardless of who heads its administration.

The United States is fully responsible for the present historical predicament that is gravely afflicting the entire Arab homeland , exerting unendurable pressure on Egypt, and generating the most serious elements of explosion inside Egypt. Neither the United States nor any of its officials can evade the responsibility for the economic and social crisis that is digging its teeth and claws into Egypt's flesh and into its people's bones. This is because the United States has participated in plunging the Israeli dagger into the Arab homeland; the poisonous blade of this black dagger was directed at its heart, Egypt.

It is also because the aggressive and expansionist wars that Israel has launched since its inception and the burden of confrontation which fell upon Egypt all received U.S. backing and support.

While the United States was pouring limitless quantities of arms and all types of aid into Israel, Egypt was bleeding, halting progress toward civilization, and postponing all internal development in order to buy arms and defend its honor and destiny.

In light of these established facts, any discussion of the questions of wheat, arms, and aid is within the framework of restoring some of the rights whose loss was caused by U.S. behavior.

The third basic element [as published] is that Egypt is well aware of its status and of its Arab, African, Islamic, and international position. The worst mistake that the United Statescan make and all the West might follow is the failure to realize the weight and status of Egypt. It is this critical point on which the efforts of Israel and world Zionism, particularly in the United States, will concentrate in particular. The aim of such efforts would be to cause faulty appraisal leading to faulty calculations that would detract much from Egypt's weight and status and from its Arab, African, and Islamic position.

There is no doubt that Husni Mubarak, as he sits at the negotiating table, will be well aware of the weight and capabilities of his country. If the U.S. Administration fails to make its calculations properly the consequences will be unpredictable. I would not be exaggerating to say that the Arab area in general and Egypt in particular are going through a critical turning point similar to that experienced in the Egyptian-U.S. relations in 1956 when the U.S. Administration made the foolish and extremely stupid decision to withdraw from financing the High Dam. The result was the nationalization of the Suez Canal, the outbreak of war, and then Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir falling into the Soviet Union's lap. The Soviets did not then have a foothold in the Middle East but Egypt, the greatest gate to the area, was soon open for them; they entered, established themselves, and infiltrated the entire area. The upshot was the present complex situation from which the United States more than anybody else is suffering.

I would not be exaggerating to say that certain indications suggest that the United States is about to commit yet another grave mistake while the Russians are watching from a distance and rubbing their hands with pleasure. I would also not be exaggerating to say that the U.S. mistake, if it takes place, will be fatal not only for Washington but also for all the Western interests in the area. The purpose here is not to spread pessimism but only to warn the U.S. capital and draw its attention to the facts and implications of the situation as it is making its calculations in preparation for Husni Mubarak's visit.

Armed Forces Issue Communique No 1,755

JN271742 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,755 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces have proven their ability and overwhelming superiority in the battlefronts throughout the years of the aggressive war waged by our people's historic enemies, who covet Iraq's awakening and fear its prosperity. Furthermore, these forces have succeeded for an entire year in maintaining a tight blockade on Khark Island, where they destroyed 125 enemy maritime targets in 1 year. Our forces will continue to march on the path of victory, to inflict more losses on enemy personnel and equipment, and to strangle the enemy's supply lines until it humbly succumbs to the call for peace and justice, to the will of God, the wise directives of the leader of victory, and to the determination and courage of all Iraqis. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. With high competence and precise planning, our brave artillery men directed heavy and effective fire at enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our forward units in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicing losses in personnel and equipment. They also succeded in paralyzing enemy troop movements and engineering work. One enemy soldier was killed, and one machinegun emplacement and one metal tower were destroyed elsewhere in the same sector.

2. Using various weapons, our forward units shelled enemy positions, arms depots, and vehicles, killing or wounding several enemy personnel, destroying an arms cache and an observation post, and damaging two excavators.

3. Our forward units opened artillery and mortar fire on enemy vehicle movements and positions in the central operational sector, destroying one vehicle and one infantry position and killing everyone in them.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 February 1985

Spokesman Details Strike on 'Maritime Target'

JN272226 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2206 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] This evening a military spokesman stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From a sense of pan-Arab and national responsibility toward Iraq's security and sovereignty and in order to guarantee peace and security in the region, our brave Armed Forces continue to tighten the blockade on the Iranian regime's oil supplies. They do this in order to prevent that regime from exploiting its country's resources by spreading chaos and backwardness and committing agression against our country, instead of utilizing these resources for the general welfare. In implementation of this policy, the aircraft of our Air Force carried out a successful raid on a large maritime target near Khark Island at 2300 last night [27 February]. As usual, the brave air eagles succeeded in scoring a direct and effective hit and returning safely and triumphantly to their bases with their aircraft, God be praised.

Thus, the total number of targets hit during the year of the blockade has reached 126. God bless Iraq's brave men. God be praised always.

[Dated] 27 February 1985.

Finance Minister, Delegation Return From Tunis

JN271301 Baghdad INA In Arabic 1114 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA) -- Minister of Finance Hisham Hasan Tawfiq and his delegation returned to Baghdad at dawn today after participating in the 38th ordinary session of the Arab economic and social council which concluded its work in Tunis yesterday.

In a statement to INA, the Iraqi minister said that various important topics were discussed at the meeting, the most important of which were the establishing of a free trade zone between the United States and the Zionist entity and European moves aimed at adopting a hostile position toward the Arab boycott.

He added that the council adopted a number of resolutions including authorizing the Arab League secretary general to follow up and revive the efforts of the 3-member committee that is charged with the issue of the closure of the Syrian border to Iraqi products, so it can present its decisions to the council at its September session.

He said that the council discussed forming an organization for renting sea beds, removing obstacles against the entry of agricultural products to the Arab countries, facilitating travel among Arab countries, and enhancing the central banks' role in achieving economic and monetary integration among Arab countries.

Turkish Labor Minister Kalemi Visits Amman

Arrives in Amman

JN261642 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 26 Feb 85

[Text] Dr Mustafa Kalemi, Turkish minister of labor and social security [title as heard], arrived in Amman this morning on an official 3-day visit to Jordan. He will hold talks with a number of Jordanian officials on ways to bolster bilateral cooperation between Jordan and Turkey in the spheres of labor and laborers, social security, vocational training, and employment in the labor force. Dr Taysir 'Abd al-Jabir, Jordanian minister of labor and social development, and Dr Salih al-Khasawinah, the ministry's under secretary, received the Turkish guest at 'Alia International Airport.

A responsible source in the Ministry of Labor and Social Development said that the Jordanian and Turkish sides will meet at the ministry tomorrow to discuss the bilateral labor agreement the two countries concluded in 1982 and the formation of Jordanian and Turkish committees entrusted to follow up and implement this agreement. It is noteworthy that Jordan employs about 3,000 Turks in various projects in the public and private sectors.

Received by 'Ubayat

JN271304 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Amman —Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat received Dr Mustafa Kalemi, Turkish minister of labor and social security, at his office at the Prime Ministry today. The Turkish minister conveyed the greetings of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to 'Ubaydat. During the meeting, they reviewed the cordial and historic relations between Jordan and Turkey, and cooperation in the various fields of labor, construction, and economic affairs to promote the cordial relations between the two friendly countries.

'Ubaydat invited the Turkish prime minister to visit Jordan. Attending the meeting were the minister of labor and social development and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

Meets With 'Abd al-Jabir

JN272045 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mr Ahmad 'Ubaydat met at his office in Amman today with Turkish Minister of Labor and Social Security Dr Mustafa Kalemi.

Later in the day, Minister of Labor and Social Development Dr Taysir 'Abd al-Jabir and Dr Kalemi held a meeting in the presence of aides from both sides. During the meeting at the Ministry of Labor, discussions centered on bilateral relations in the labor, social security, and vocational training fields. Two Turkish and Jordanian committees were set up at the meeting. They will pursue and supervise the implementation of a labor agreement concluded between the two countries.

Support's Jordanian Policy

JN280918 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Feb 85 pp 1, 18

['Afifah al-Kaluti dispatch]

[Excerpt] Amman-*AL-RA'Y*-Dr Mustafa Kalemi, Turkish minister of labor and social security, has said that Turkey supported and is still supporting Jordan's political stands toward finding a solution to the Arab problem and that this support is based on the two countries' strong relations and close friendship.

In an exclusive statement to *AL-RA'Y*, Dr Kalemi added that Turkey also expects such support from Jordan with regard to the Cypriot Turkish problem. Dr Kalemi indicated that during his meeting with the prime minister yesterday, Ahmad 'Ubaydat emphasized to him that Turkey can play an important and positive role in the region within the framework of the Islamic states.

Interior Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia

JN271853 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Amman from Saudi Arabia this evening. He spoke to our correspondent Shakir Maharnah about this visit:

[Begin recording] [Maharnah] Could you tell us about the nature of the visit, and the results of your talks with Saudi officials?

['Arar] This visit came to complement several past visits and meetings with Saudi Interior Minister His Highness Prince Nayif. The talks dealt with all topics that concern the two ministries and the two countries' so that they can serve each country's citizens and nationals in the other country. The relations, thanks be to God, have always been and will always be characterized by continuous cooperation and understanding between our two countries' organs. Thank you. [end recording]

UNIFIL 'Extremely Disturbed' by Rabin Remarks

NC271929 Paris AFP in English 1905 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Al-Naqurah, South Lebanon, Feb 27 (AFP) — The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is "extremely disturbed" by the reported description of its French contigent by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as "swine," UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel said here today.

"All these events," Mr Goksel said, "may endanger our future role in the area as keeper of peace. Without the support of the local people, we cannot have a peacekeeping role."

Army Exchanges Fire With Israeli Units

NC271402 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The Lebanese Army's Guidance Directorate has issued the following statement: An Israeli patrol advanced on Kawthariyat al-Siyad at 1330. Army personnel fired on it, forcing it to stop. A second Israeli motorized patrol reinforced with tanks returned and shelled Army posts in Kawthariyat al-Siyad. The Army used appropriate weapons to return the fire.

Karami on Cabinet Meeting, Airport Security

NC271340 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Cabinet meeting ended at 1425 today. The meeting was chaired by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil in the presence of Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the ministers, except Minister Nabih Birri and Minister Walid Junblatt. The most important topics on which the discussion focused were the legislative decrees, the current situation in the occupied Lebanese territory, and Lebanon's complaint to the UN Security Council concerning the terrorist actions in the villages in southern Lebanon and western Al-Biqa'. The Security Council will debate the Lebanese complaint tomorrow evening.

Following the meeting Prime Minister Karami made the following statement:

[Begin recording] The Cabinet reviewed the report submitted by the Legislative Decrees Committee and studied all its views and proposals. Since the Cabinet lacked a quorum, it has been decided to defer decisions on these issues to another session. I will make the necessary contacts to ensure a Cabinet meeting with all members, if possible. In addition, the Cabinet reviewed the complaint lodged with the Security Council in light of Israel's continued inhuman actions against the Lebanese citizens in the occupied land. We have called for the convocation of an official session of the Security Council in light of the studies and information to be submitted to the Security Council members for adopting a resoluton condemning and calling for stopping these actions, because we can no longer tolerate them.

The Cabinet also reviewed the incidents that took place at Beirut International Airport. It decided to strengthen the airport security body and technical facilities and to provide it with the necessary equipment. The proper quarters have been entrusted with taking practical measures to implement this decision, to incorporate the unofficial [as heard] offices, and to erect a fence around the airport and along the access road to ensure security for everyone. [end recording]

Sham'un on Expanding 'Lebanese Front'

NC271854 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] In an interview with *AL-MASIRAH* magazine, [former] President Camille Sham'un stated that there is an intention and readiness to expand the Lebanese Front. He added: For some time now we have been conducting talks with [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah and with other personalities to have them join the front.

He said that these talks are continuing and that an announcement will be made at the appropriate time when the contacts are completed.

President Sham'un said: What suffices so far is that the Lebanese Front has succeeded in enabling the Lebanese resistance to stand fast for 10 years and to preserve Lebanon's existence.

Jordan Asks Junblatt To Move From Country

JN270653 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Relations between Minister Walid Junblatt and the Jordanian authorities have deteriorated. The Jordanian Royal Court has rejected Junblatt's request to meet King Husayn — a request which was made after the Jordanian Ministry of Interior had asked Junblatt to move, with his family, to a place outside the Kingdom. Although the ministry has not officially justified this decision, an informed Jordanian source has revealed that the decision to dismiss Junblatt from Amman was made after the Jordanian authorities received information to the effect that Damascus and Libya's Tripoli are attempting to instigate the Palestinians in Jordan to oppose the recent Amman agreement between King Husayn and 'Arafat. Information indicates that Junblatt has an important part to play in this plan in return for financial and military aid from Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Amal Rejects Imitating Iran's Islamic Example

NC271836 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] In an interview with French international radio, 'Akif Haydar, head of the Amal Movement's Political Bureau, stated that as far as the Amal Movement or the Shi'ite community are concerned, Iran is not an example to be followed. He said that Hezbollah's attempt to imitate the Iranian system in Lebanon is a serious and harmful endeavor even to the Shi'ites.

Haydar said that there is a difference between the followers of Khomeyni and the Islamic Republic. Khomeyni, he added, cannot request that we change the government in Lebanon or abolish the role of parliament which [word indistinct] goes beyond the scope of religion. Haydar affirmed that the Amal movement categorically rejects the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Lebanon.

Hezbollah Headquarters Moved From Syria to Ba'labakk

NC271849 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Hezbollah's main headquarters were transferred from the Al-Zabdani area in Syria to the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk 2 days ago.

Reportage on Visit of PDRY Chairman to Damascus

Chairman Arrives in Damascus

JN271133 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad arrived in Damascus at 1330 today. President Hafiz al-Asad headed those who received 'Ali Nasir Muhammad at Damascus International Airport. Also there to receive 'Ali Nasir Muhammad were Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad shook hands with those who received him, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, the Damascus governor, heads of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps, and the staff of the PDRY Embassy in Damascus. President Hafiz al-Asad and Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad then left in an official motorcade for the Presidential Palace.

Press Statement

JN271532 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpts] PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad arrived in Damascus at 1330 today.

In a statement to the press, Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: Our visit to the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic comes under Arab circumstances that demand greater coordination and consultations among the nationalist Arab liberation movement forces and their nationalist, progressive regimes to confront the dangers stemming from the continued, rabid activity against our Arab peoples by the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary circles.

While we in the PDRY thank brother President Hafiz al-Asad for inviting us to visit Syria, we express our satisfaction with the continuing development of the militant relations between the PDRY and the Syrian Arab Republic. We are confident that this visit will enable us to hold comprehensive, extensive discussions with our Syrian brothers, the foremost of whom is militant brother President Hafiz al-Asad. Undoubtedly our discussions will be particularly concerned with recent developments in the Middle East. We will also discuss the measures and steps that we deem necessary to bolster both the unity and cohesion of nationalist Arab liberation forces and the steadfastness of Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese nationalist movement. We will also discuss the international situation and bilateral relations between our two countries, governments, parties, and peoples.

While hailing Syria's success in the field of economic and social growth and the success of the recent Ba'th Party congress, we regard the continuation of Syria's steadfastness and the deepening of its cohesion with the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement as an act of pan-Arab liberation which deserves appreciation and support. Perhaps it is clear that there have been recent developmetns in the region. While the triumph of the Lebanese nationalist resistance in expelling the Israeli forces from Sidon is being regarded as a prominent pan-Arab and nationalist revolutionary act of which all revolutionary Arab forces are proud, the recent Amman agreement constitutes an infringement on the Palestinian people's right to return, their right to self-determination, and their right to establish their independent national state. This agreement constitutes a clear violation of Arab summit resolutions and ignores PNC resolutions, particularly the resolutions of the 16th PNC session. Moreover, this agreement has undermined all efforts aimed at achieving PLO unity, which means that it will serve imperialist and Zionist circles and assist their hostile designs.

Thus, we believe it is necessary to discuss these developments on the basis of continuing to support the Lebanese nationalist resistance and confronting the threats to the Palestinian Arab people's cause and all the capitulationist solutions aimed at dwarfing the PLO's nationalist course and perpetuating Arab fragmentation. Our visit to the Syrian Arab Republic will undoubtedly enable our delegation to become acquainted with the Syrian Arab people's new achievements. This is because we regard their achievements as a triumph for us and for the Arab nations which are proud of Syria's steadfastness and its liberation stands. I would like to express my deep gratitude for the hospitality with which we were received and are always received whenever we visit Damascus, the beautiful capital of steadfast Syria.

PDRY Chairman, Al-Asad Confer

JN271435 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad held a meeting this afternoon. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the delegation accompanying Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who arrived in Damascus this afternoon, attended the meeting.

Talks Resume

JN280704 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad resumed talks with PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace in Al-Muhajirin at 1830 yesterday.

The meeting was later joined by Dr Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the prime minister; General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defense minister; Yusuf Ju'aydani, minister of social affairs and labor; Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Yasin Rajjuh, minister of information; and Dr Ghazi al-Durubi, minister of oil.

It was joined on the PDRY side by Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the Political Bureau and defense minister; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister of fish resources; Nasir 'Ali, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of labor and civil service; Mahmud al-Najashi, member of the YSP Central Committee and

deputy secretary of the Central Committee; 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of energy and minerals; and 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahman, PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with all aspects of the situation in the region and the Arab arena in light of the recent developments. They also dealt with issues related to relations between the two fraternal countries.

President Hafiz al-Asad hosted a dinner banquet in honor of Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. It was attended by the members of the PDRY and Syrian delegations who participated in the talks.

The Yemeni chairman arrived in Damascus yesterday afternoon and President Hafiz al-Asad was at the head of those who welcomed him upon arrival.

Talks 'Completed'

JN281014 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad resumed talks with PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace in Al-Muhajirin at 1015 this morning.

During the meeting the two presidents completed talks they began yesterday on the situation in the region and in the Arab arena in light of recent developments as well as on the need to bolster the Arab steadfastness forces that are confronting the imperialist and Zionist schemes hostile to the Arab nation.

Al-Shar', PDRY's Al-Dali Confer

JN271848 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Faruq al-Shar' received PDRY Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali here at 1900 today. The meeting was attended by the PDRY ambassador in Damascus. The talks revolved around the latest developments in the region, and relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to bolster them.

Al-Asad Meets With Spanish Senate Delegation

JN271520 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 27 Feb (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad received Spanish Senate President Jose Caravajal and his delegation here today. Caravajal conveyed King Juan Carlos' greetings and best wishes to President al-Asad. The president asked him to convey his greetings to King Juan Carlos, to the Spanish Senate, and to the friendly Spanish people. The Spanish official expressed his satisfaction with the results of his talks with the Syrian officials. He described these talks as fruitful and useful, and praised the warm reception he and his delegation were accorded.

The talks during the meeting revolved around developments in the Middle East and Europe, and the need to bolster relations between the two countries in various fields. The Spanish delegation presented President al-Asad the Spanish Senate's gold medal, which is designated for heads of state.

Spanish Delegation Departs

JN271843 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The Spanish parliamentary delegation led by Spanish Senate President Jose Caravajal left Damascus this afternoon following a 5-day visit to Syria at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The guest delegation was seen off by Deputy People's Assembly Speaker Dr 'Ali Rida and a number of Assembly members. It was also seen off by Spanish Ambassador in Damascus Felipe de la Morena and the embassy staff. In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Caravajal expressed his admiration and appreciation for President Hafiz al-Asad's unique personality. He also expressed deep gratitude for the cordial reception and hospitality he felt during his visit to Syria. He stressed the need to bolster bilateral relations in general and parliamentary relations in particular, because of their importance to both the Syrian and Spanish peoples.

Al-Shar' Briefs Foreign Envoys on South Lebanon

JN271501 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 27 Feb (SANA) — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received in succession the ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions in Damascus of: the Arab states, the member states of the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement, and the West and East European states.

He informed them of the serious conditions in southern Lebanon resulting from the Israeli occupation authorities' savage practices against Lebanese villages and civilian population. The minister explained that Israel's objective in such grave acts is to increase tension prior to pushing the situation in the region toward an explosion.

The minister affirmed that the Lebanese people are determined to resist Israeli occupation by every available means, and that Syria stands firmly and resolutely at their side, supporting and assisting them until their country is liberated from the Israel invaders.

The minister reaffirmed that Syria — president, people, and Army — will not leave fraternal Lebanon to face Israel's savage grip alone, regardless of the sacrifices.

At the end of the meetings, many of the ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions expressed their solidarity with the Lebanese people and their strong denunciation of the Israeli practices. They promised to immediately inform their governments of the current developments in southern Lebanon and their serious repercussions on the situation in the region.

Rif'at al-Asad Confers With Soviet Ambassador

JN280650 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Vice President Dr Rif'at al-Asad received Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Felix Fedotov at 1700 yesterday. Talks dealt with issues of common concern.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

JN271956 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 27 Feb (SANA) — A Turkish delegation headed by (Tiserti Cheryl), assistant to the Turkish foreign minister, has arrived in Damascus. The delegation was met at Damascus International Airport by 'Isam al-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister; Sulayman Haddad, head of the West European Department; the Turkish ambassador in Damascus, and members of the embassy staff.

Damascus Notes Recent Egyptian, Israeli Moves

JN272011 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Another Egyptian envoy arrived in the Zionist entity today following the departure of Usamah al-Baz, director of Egyptian regime President Husni Mubarak's office. This intensive Egyptian move at this stage is aimed at escalating conspiracies against the Arab nation following the launching of the so-called Husayn-Mubarak initiative to hold direct negotiations between the Jordanian regime and 'Arafat on the one hand, and Israel on the other.

In another development, Zionist Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal, ending his visit to the Egyptian regime today, described his visit as very positive, constructive, and cordial. During his visit to the Egyptian regime, Shahal concluded an agreement under which his entity will import 2 million tons of crude oil from the Egyptian regime.

TISHRIN Assails Husayn-Mubarak Initiative

JN271159 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0755 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] In its comment today, *TISHRIN* affirms that the U.S. welcome of the Egyptian president's proposals to arrange negotiations between the Zionist enemy and a Jordanian delegation in which the Palestinian side is represented by personalities from the West Bank, and the arrival of the Egyptian envoy to Israel, shed light on the seriousness of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement.

The newspaper says that 'Arafat, taking into consideration the statements of his close aides Faruq Qaddumi and Khalid al-Hasan, has conveyed to his supporters a different version of the agreement he signed with King Husayn. He has been playing two games — joining Camp David and telling the Palestinian people something else.

TISHRIN adds that 'Arafat has led his supporters step by step into the hostile trench against the Palestine question. He had led them to the Egyptian regime which is shackled by the Camp David accords, to King Husayn, and to the confederation plan. He has authorized King Husayn to liquidate the Palestinian cause. He has also led his supporters to divisionism, to breaking bridges with the Palestinian revolution's factions and leaders, and into carrying out the theatrical PNC in Amman. He has led them against Syria, made them attack the national forces in northern Lebanon, and is now leading them to Israel.

The paper explains that 'Arafat is proceeding with a clear plan aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause. It says that if all these pieces of evidence have not yet convinced the hesitant ones, then the disclosed clauses of the agreement and the enemy's welcoming of the procedures being discussed to hold direct negotiations based on Resolution 242 under the sponsorship of the United States, lay bare all facts.

TISHRIN wonders: How can the Palestinian people, after all these long years of struggle and immense sacrifice, be merely refugees? Why should the Palestine question be liquidated in such a treasonous and humiliating way, at a time when Israel has become unable to confront the tiny Lebanese people and is fearing a similar upheaval in the West Bank and Gaza — an upheaval that is only awaiting the efforts of those who are loyal to the cause.

Concluding *TISHRIN* says that rejecting the Amman agreement is not enough. What is required is destroying the course that led to the agreement. This is the responsibility of those who are loyal to the cause. History will never forgive those who are negligent.

Damascus on Condemnation of Husayn-'Arafat Accord

JN271508 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1403 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 27 Feb (SANA) — Communist and labor parties in the Arab East countries have condemned the Husayn-'Arafat agreement and announced their absolute rejection of it. At the same time, they have praised the Lebanese nationalist forces' victories over the Israeli invasion forces and their strong confrontation of all the capitulatory imperialist and Zionist solutions. In a statement they issued at the end of their recent meeting, these parties said that the Amman agreement denies the Palestinian Arab people's right to establish their independent national state and ignores the UN resolutions that support the Palestinian people's rights, the PNC resolutions, and the Fes summit resolutions. The statement also stressed that this agreement is aimed at turning the region into a base of aggression against the national liberation movement and the Soviet Union within U.S. imperialism's general strategy for preparing a destructive nuclear war.

The statement also pointed out that NATO and the various imperialist circles have welcomed the Husayn-'Arafat agreement. U.S. President Reagan and West European circles also consider the agreement a positive step and something practical. It added that the agreement, which departs from national unanimity and poses threats to the Palestine question and the Arab liberation cause, has proven that the rightist leadership led by Yasir 'Arafat are continuing their policy, even though this policy has greatly harmed the Palestine question and the Arab national liberation movement. It called on the Palestinian masses as well as Palestinian groups and personalities both inside and outside the occupied land to unify their political positions, to find the best way to foil this agreement, and to restore PLO unity on a foundation hostile to imperialism and Zionism.

Egyptian Envoys Meet With Peres; Results Reported

Peres-Badawi Meeting

TA271553 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] We begin with a report about the meeting between the Egyptian envoy and the prime minister. The envoy, 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, relayed a message from President Mubarak to Prime Minister Peres. In the meeting, the prime minister voiced Israel's support for direct negotiations, without any preconditions, with either Jordan or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include any PLO representatives. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports on the meeting and on the political contacts in Jerusalem today.

Last night, journalists opposite the prime minister's residence were pushed aside and blinded with lights to prevent them from identifying the Egyptian president's special envoy. Today, on the other hand, the journalists were respectfully invited to Peres' office to photograph the meeting between him and Egyptian envoy 'Abd al-Halim Badawi.

The Egyptians claim that Badawi and last night's mysterious envoy are the same person. However, it seems that the Egyptian diversionary trick was too obvious. Although official Jerusalem is cooperating with the Egyptians, its cooperation comes with a wink. There is no doubt that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres last night conferred with the Egyptian president's closest adviser, Dr Usamah al-Baz. Some Likud figures today called this is a grotesque joke, a farce.

What is the purpose of the Egyptian relay race? From the outset, Cairo had no intention of publicizing last night's meeting. The Egyptians sought to lower the profile of the talks with Israel. Usamah al-Baz pointedly asked not to be seen in Jerusalem and the Prime Minister's Office heeded his request.

The way things ultimately were published did not harm the Egyptians. They are enjoying the best of both worlds and they may portray their initiative in a different light in Washington, in Jerusalem, and in the Arab capitals.

As noted, Peres, along with Ministers Weizman and Arens conferred with 'Abd al-Halim Badawi and Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni this afternoon. At the end of the meeting we heard the official communique by the prime minister's media adviser, Uri Savir.

[Begin Savir recording] The prime minister today gave an audience to Egyptian President Mubarak's personal envoy, 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, who conveyed to him a message from President Mubarak. Issues related to the improvement of Israeli-Egyptian relations and the promotion of the peace process in the wake of President Mubarak's latest proposals were discussed in the meeting.

In the meeting, the prime minister voiced our support for direct negotiations, without any preconditions, with either Jordan or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include any PLO representatives.

Both sides recognized the urgent need to promote the peace process and agreed to continue their close contacts to achieve this end. [end recording]

Savir was asked about Usamah al-Baz' participation in the talks in Jerusalem over the last 24 hours, but he referred the enquirer to the Egyptian side.

The meeting with Badawi, an official of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, is less important. Badawi is supposed to be on his way to Egypt at the moment. An Israeli envoy — the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avraham Tamir — is scheduled to depart for Cairo tomorrow.

Now that Israel has recovered from its surprise in the wake of the latest dramatic moves initiated by Cairo, one may already discern the differences of opinion within the national unity government. In contrast to the office of Prime Minister Peres and Minister Weizman, who regard the latest developments as an important and positive step in the peace process, Minister Moshe Arens, acting foreign minister, reported to his Likud colleagues that there is nothing new or tangible in the so-called Mubarak initiative.

It has now emerged that in yesterday's meeting, Usamah al-Baz himself argued that the Egyptian president's proposals should not be regarded as a new initiative. Al-Baz raised an unambiguous Egyptian demand to transfer the question of Tabah to international arbitration. This issue was discussed at length in the meeting, but the Egyptian envoy could not promise that the normalization of Israeli-Egyptian relations would be resumed.

This was further corroborated by some Alignment ministers who confirmed that the notions raised by the Egyptian envoy did not include any operative proposal. Reports that an imminent meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Peres is on the agenda were denied today.

As the Egyptians explained, the proposal was first and foremost designed to arrange a meeting between the Americans and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; Israel would join the circle of talks only later.

From the remarks made by the Egyptian envoy last night, it also emerges that King Husayn has not yet given his final response to the latest Egyptian proposals.

Well, to sum up today's events, it seems that the notions brought by the Egyptian envoy are not as bombastic as one might have inferred from the dramatic events. It is clear that a significant part of the move was meant to serve Egyptian public relations just as it is clear that the political process will continue in the next few weeks. The sides will continue to exchange envoys; Mubarak will confer with Husayn and later with President Reagan. Perhaps, these comings and goings between the various capitals will ultimately bring about the end of an extended and lengthy effort to promote the peace process.

Peres-Al-Baz Meeting Detailed

TA280545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Usamah al-Baz can be pleased at the end of his tiring visit to Jerusalem, as Shim'on Peres provided him with enough leeway to continue bilateral contacts. In their tete-a-tete, the prime minister convinced the high-ranking envoy that it is within his power and ability to persuade the Israeli Cabinet to come to a Cairo conference facing a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which includes the participation of personalities from the territories who support the PLO. As for the subjects broached in talks with the ministers, following are the main points:

Israel will agree to discuss any proposal raised by President Mubarak, and will not reject out of hand any suggestion. Peres recommended that Mubarak agree to allow an MFO unit to enter the Tabah region, and to initiate a conversion of the place into a center of international peace, as he phrased it. The two governments would then encourage cultural and tourist activity in Tabah. Israel will continue to improve the standard of living in the territories. Peres wished to inform Mubarak that on Sunday the Cabinet will begin discussing the second stage of the withdrawal from Lebanon. As for the future political negotiations, Israel — as we said — will be prepared to negotiate in Cairo with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which does not include PLO representatives.

During the meeting, Minister Moshe Arens asked that his reservations be mentioned. He claims that Israel should make the continuation of the talks conditional upon close adherence to and no digression from the Camp David accords.

Peres emphasized that the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv would constitute a real contribution to the improvement of ties with Egypt. There were other practical suggestions about well-known matters: The Canada [refugee] camp [in Rafah]; anchoring along two islands in the Gulf of Elat; and others.

Finally, the prime minister wished to remark on Mubarak's statement in various interviews last week that there are two governments in Israel — one headed by Peres and another headed by Yitzhaq Shamir — by saying that this is not true. There is only one government in Israel, and it makes decisions by majority versus minority votes.

As an epilogue to the Al-Baz visit, let us say something about the emissary himself: A highly sensitive source has told Israel's Ambassador to Washington Me'ir Rosenne that the Egyptian president's senior adviser, Usamah al-Baz, plays a most negative role in ties between Israel and Egypt. According to the source, President Mubarak would have been prepared to improve ties with Israel were it not for Dr Al-Baz, who is impeding this and frightening him. Ambassador Rosenne made sure the content of this conversation was transmitted to the policymakers in Jerusalem in anticipation of the arrival of the senior adviser, Usamah al-Baz.

Peres Accepts Cairo Conference

TA280555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres last night said Israel is responding to the proposal of Egyptian President Mubarak for an international conference in Cairo with the participation of a Jordanian delegation in which Palestinian representatives will take part. The United States will also participate. Peres spoke about Israel's conditions for peace talks at the British WIZO [Women's International Zionist Organization] women's conference in Netanya.

[Begin Peres recording] The idea of a direct meeting between the Jordanians and the Israelis is the right idea, and I welcome it completely without any qualification. [applause] The suggestion that it will be done in Cairo is complete acceptable to us. Why not? Cairo is a nice city, and the Egyptians are known for their hospitality, and we shall gladly go to Cairo. The suggestion that the president of Egypt will host this meeting is fair and nice, and we shall like to see him as our host. The proposal that Americans will participate — yes, acceptable to us.

We feel all the time that the difference between the United States and Soviet Russia in the Middle East is that while the Russians want a piece in the Middle East or a piece of the Middle East, the Americans want peace in the Middle East, and we recognize the difference. [applause]

The suggestion that the Jordanian delegation may be a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is again acceptable by Israel. No objection. Palestinians, but not terrorists, but not PLO. No matter who a terrorist is — it is Palestinian, or Syrian — what counts is the fact that he is terrorizing. We invite people who are ready to use a microphone but not a pistol, or ready to talk but not to shoot. [end recording]

Basyuni on Delegation Members

TA271148 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Report on interview with Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian charge d'affaires to Israel, by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan "yesterday" — place not given]

[Text] It will be the PLO leadership that will have to select the Palestinian delegates to join delegation with Jordan for the negotiations with Israel. Egypt will not interfere in the selection of the Palestinian representatives, nor will it accept any proposal in this regard that will not be acceptable to the PLO. This was stated yesterday by Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel, in an interview with DAVAR.

According to Basyuni, the Palestinian delegates on the negotiating team will either be members of the PLO leadership, or Palestinians from the territories who are not top PLO leaders but who are acceptable to the organization's leadership. They will be elected by the leadership independently of any other factors. Basyuni expressed the hope that Israel would not close the door on President Mubarak's new peace initiative, which he regards as a "positive and true step toward peace."

According to Basyuni, the timing of the initiative is not related only to the Egyptian president's upcoming trip to Washington, but forms part of Egypt's longstanding strategy aimed at finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem.

Basyuni confirmed that he has been involved in contacts between the Egyptian president and Israeli leaders on the new peace initiative.

The Egyptian charge d'affaires said that a summit meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Peres still requires careful preparation, to yield results in two spheres — to improve the fabric of relations between Egypt and Israel, and to bring about substantial and vigorous progress toward resolving the Palestinian problem.

He claimed that the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel still depends on the fulfillment of the three conditions Egypt presented to Israel — a complete IDF withdrawal from Lebanon; Israeli agreement to refer the Tabah conflict to arbitration; and a substantial change in Israel's policy in the territories.

Basyuni said that a favorable Israeli response to President Mubarak's peace initiative would have positive implications with regard to bilateral relations, but would still not be enough to bring the Egyptian ambassador back to Tel Aviv.

In the interview, Basyuni disclosed that Egypt and Israel are presently engaged in diplomatic contacts to prepare for another meeting in Ismailia to discuss the introduction of the MFO to Tabah.

Regarding Coral Island, Basyuni said that after President Mubarak permitted tourists "from all over the world" to retreat to that island when on vacation and to scuba dive in the area, the Egyptian authorities are now laying the infrastructure for absorbing tourists, including Israelis, on the island. This is why Mubarak's decision [to allow Israeli vessels to anchor there again] has not yet been implemented.

Badawi's Departure Comments

TA271610 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Prior to his return to Egypt, Egyptian envoy 'Abd al-Halim Badawi stated at Ben-Gurion Airport a short time ago: My meeting with the prime minister this afternoon dealt with continuing the contacts we have held in the past. I conveyed a message from President Mubarak to Mr Peres. Badawi added: In the meetings we held, we discussed the importance of renewing the momentum of the peace process.

Our correspondent Gil Ronen reports from Ben-Gurion Airport:

[Begin recording] [Ronen] The Egyptian foreign minister's aide, 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, held a news conference — if one may call it that — in the VIP lounge at Ben-Gurion Airport a short time ago. Badawi sufficed with reading a brief statement, both in Arabic and in English, stating: My meetings with the prime minister this afternoon were an extension of the contacts we have been holding.

[Badawi — in English] My meeting this afternoon with the prime minister was a continuation of the consultations that had started before. I came bearing a message from President Mubarak to Prime Minister Peres. We had discussions; the discussions were about the importance of putting momentum into the peace process. We also discussed bilateral relations and we agreed that it was important to start as soon as possible with the negotiations toward a peaceful settlement of the Middle East. Thank you.

[Ronen translates the above and continues] Correspondents wanted to ask Badawi more questions but he waved them away. Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni refused to comment. It should be noted that the prime minister's adviser, Dr Nimrod Novik, was sitting next to Badawi. Badawi refused to confirm that Usamah al-Baz was the man who conferred with the prime minister last night. However, it seems that by stating that his talks with the prime minister took place this afternoon, he indirectly confirmed this fact. [end recording]

Badawi, Basyuni Depart

TA280916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Egyptian Embassy in Israel left last night for Cairo with 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, President Mubarak's envoy. A source at the Egyptian Embassy told our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar that Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni will take part in the talks which will take place between Israeli and Egyptian representatives, and will probably return to Israel on Sunday.

Tamir Leaves For Cairo 28 February

TA280719 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0703 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 28 Feb (ITIM) — Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, left this morning for Cairo and will return to Israel within 1 or 2 days, after delivering a personal message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as part of the contacts currently taking place between Cairo and Jerusalem to promote peace in the area.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal is due to return to Israel this evening from his Cairo visit.

Minister Shahal Says Cairo Talks 'Positive'

TA271534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal has met with Egypt's prime minister and foreign minister in Cairo. Following the meetings, Shahal told correspondents that the talks had been positive and very beneficial. He refused to describe the contents of the discussions.

Egypt Hopes for Improved Relations With Israel

TA271153 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Report by DAVAR political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Egypt has made it clear to Israel that it will seek an improvement in bilateral relations in the commercial, tourism, and economic fields, even if its new initiative — concerning a conference to be attented by Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation — is not successful. This was stated by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid during his meeting with Energy Minister Moshe Shahal.

Minister Shahal, who has been in telephone contact with the prime minister, is scheduled to meet with President Mubarak and Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and to convey to them Shim'on Peres' response.

During the meeting, the Egyptian foreign minister expressed his confidence that despite statements by PLO officials — who have rejected President Mubarak's new initiative — it will eventually be accepted by the organization and will be launched. The Egyptian minister explained that the initiative is not a tactical move to improve Egypt's image in anticipation of President Mubarak's visit to Washington but rather a genuine strategic move.

Coverage of Reaction to Mubarak Peace Initiative

Rabin Wants 'Real Peace'

TA271102 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1042 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The defense minister has said that he hopes the envoy dispatched by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Israel, and the talks conducted last night in Jerusalem, will constitute a good beginning to the thawing of the cold peace, and turn it into a real peace between Israel and Egypt. Mr Rabin was speaking at the annual meeting on aeronautics and aviation affairs which opened today in Tel Aviv. He also expressed the hope that the visits of Egyptians and Israelis to Cairo and Jerusalem, like those held over the last few days, will serve as a tool to really improve bilateral ties. At the same time, the defense minister emphasized that hopes and expectations are not enough, and they should be put into practice.

Eban Views Initiative Favorably

TA271644 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Here is another reaction in Israel to Mubarak's initiative; this initiative in the Middle East is an innovation by the Egyptian leadership. This was said by the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Knesset Member [MK] Abba Eban. Eban believes that this initiative is not just a public relations exercise by the Egyptian president. He says that, in its proposal, Egypt has showed sensitivity toward the Israeli position, which rejects a dialogue with the PLO. Our Knesset correspondent Sha'ul Stav spoke with MK Abba Eban.

[Begin recording] [Eban] I think the prime minister's reaction is a good one, without conceding our right to examine, of course, every line, every word, and every paragraph when we see the proposal in its entirety. He judged as generally positive, and I think this was wise, the very fact that it is Egypt that is taking the initiative, and that his remarks to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* were restrained and balanced.

[Stav] It has not yet become clear whether this is a public relations exercise by the Egyptian president before his trip to the United States, or whether the proposal is substantive. What is your opinion?

[Eban] From everything I see, including Egypt's actions, the fact that, after all, a close confidant of Mubarak was sent for long meetings with the prime minister, this should be regarded as a very substantive effort. I would also say that Egypt's coming into prominence as the main element is the main thing that is new, and it is a positive innovation.

[Stav] If and when it comes to a conference, should Israel demand that the list of Palestinian representatives be acceptable to it?

[Eban] I suggest we take this one step at a time, as we are required to, and just express views on the principles described by Mr Mubarak. The very term Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should not shock anyone, and indeed I have noticed that in both the government and in the coalition, and also from what several of the Likud ministers have said, there is a moderate attitude. I know of two statements by the vice prime minister and the finance minister, who said there is nothing there that commits us to rush or panic. If there are obstacles, we will discuss them. [end recording]

Palestinians on Initiative

JN271147 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 26 Feb 85

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] In the administered territories, opinions differ on the Egyptian initiative to hold an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian conference. Ibrahim Shahid reports on these opinions:

[Begin recording] [Shahid] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, what is your view on this issue?

[Frayj] I believe that this is a practical proposal, in line with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. It is time that all the sides in this region hold a political dialogue to end the Palestinian people's tragedy. Peace is the only way, and negotiations are the key to peace. I support President Husni Mubarak's initiative; I hold him in great esteem and respect him. However, I should say that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative and it has the right to deputize or authorize.

[Shahid] What is the role of the Palestinian figures in the West Bank?

[Frayj] We are committed to the joint decisions of the PLO and

the Jordanian Government. I support a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

[Shahid] That was Bethlehem Mayor Frayj. What does former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa have to say?

[Al-Shawwah] My views, as well as those of all the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and the occupied territory, are that we support such meetings. These meetings and initiatives are noncommittal, they are a means of learning viewpoints. If a meeting takes place and viewpoints are found to be close, if they aim to find peace based on right and justice and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, then meetings and negotiations will continue. Otherwise, everyone has the freedom to act as he wishes. Everyone's aim is to realize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Therefore, any Palestinian side that is approved represents the PLO's views; that is, the views of all the inhabitants.

[Shahid] If you are personally invited to the conference, do you think that your place is in this Jordanian-Palestinian- Israeli meeting, if it is held in Cairo?

[Al-Shawwa] If I am invited and if no differences arise from my invitation, then I will be prepared to go. If any other person is invited, I will be prepared to support his invitation or any invitation to any other persons or persons to this meeting.

[Shahid] That was Rashad al-Shawwa. What does Mahmud al-Khatib have to say? Al-Khatib is editor in chief of the newspaper *AL-MITHAQ*, known for its objection to the 17th PNC resolutions and its support for the rejection front.

[Al-Khatib] In my opinion, and in view of the current Arab situation and differences among the Arab states, any new proposal or formula for a solution will not solve the Palestinian problem, but will further complicate it and will eventually lead to its liquidation. I believe that we all want a solution, but it should be a just solution to our problem. It should give us our right to self-determination and to establish our independent Palestinian state. We reject any initiative at this time which does not meet our demand, regardless of who takes it and under what name. We are of the view that the present circumstances do not require any political move, because all these moves lead to liquidating the Palestinian cause and reducing it to a problem of refugees and a border issue. It will be tied to Resolution 242, which we completely reject.

[Shahid] Do you not feel that the time factor will further complicate the problem and delay a solution?

[Al-Khatib] Time may be a positive factor or it may be a negative one. We cannot judge future developments.[end recording]

West Bank Press Reacts

TA271150 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Litani, Tzvi Bar'el, and Dan Margalit]

[Excerpt] "President Mubarak's new initiative is serious, and was preceded by close coordination between him and Husayn, 'Arafat, and probably also Peres, through Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Basyuni," Bashir Baghruti, the editor of the East Jerusalem *AL-TALI'AH* and one of the leftist leaders in the West Bank said yesterday. He added that he himself opposes any formula that would not guarantee the right to self-determination for the Palestinians and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the 1967 borders. At the same time, he added that he is convinced Mubarak's latest move is a practical translation of the latest Husayn-'Arafat accord, and was doubtlessly done following their consent and after prior coordination with them.

Baghruti added that in his opinion the Palestinian representatives who will be on the Jordanian delegation will be personalities like Ilyas Frayj, and not people directly identified as PLO activists, such as former Halhul Mayor Muhammad Milhim, who is currently a member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Some members of the pro-Jordanian camp in the territories also said last night that Mubarak's initiative should not be belittled. They claim that contrary to the time of the signing of the Camp David accords, now opposition in the Arab world to such a step is limited to Syria, Libya, the PDRY, and the pro-Syrian Palestinians. The other camp consists of Egypt, Jordan, and now Iraq, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the YAR, and most of the Palestinians in the territories and the Arab world. These people said that the chances that Mubarak's latest move would succeed are far better than the chances Al-Sadat had during the signing of the Camp David accords.

The East Jerusalem (and pro-Jordanian) *AL-QUDS* wrote yesterday that one of Mubarak's missions during his upcoming U.S. visit will be to try to improve the attitude of the United States toward the PLO. The East Jerusalem *AL-SHA'B* (which supports the PLO and 'Arafat) yesterday came out with a lead article saying that the Mubarak initiative conflicts with the idea of the international conference (which is supposed to deal with a solution to the problem) and signifies an attempt to circumvent the PLO.

The secretariat of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Settlements Council yesterday decided to prepare for a struggle on the concession of territories, in light of the Egyptian president's new initiative. Council Secretary 'Otni'el Schneller said yesterday that the struggle will be channeled along various lines, and will begin on the parliamentary level. Tomorrow the council plenum will meet in Elqana, and Housing and Construction Minister David Levi will also attend it.

The council issued a communique yesterday about the latest Egyptian initiative, saying: "The Council of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Settlements is calling upon the government to declare that in future talks with Jordan, the government will propose that in return for Jordan's and other Arab countries' readiness to make real peace, Israel will be prepared to pay in kind." The council further added that it objects to the misleading term of "territories in return for peace."

Incident With France Over Rabin Remarks 'Settled'

TA271438 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Israel's ambassador to France 'Ovadya Sofer believes that the incident between France and Israel about remarks attributed to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has been settled. Sofer was speaking with our correspondent Rafi Matar following his meeting with Francis Gutman, the director general of the French External Relations Ministry.

Earlier, the French External Relations and Defense Ministries had issued an announcement strongly condemning the remarks attributed to Minister Rabin in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee regarding the French soldiers in UNIFIL. The announcement stated that if Rabin was correctly quoted as saying that those "bastards" were hampering IDF operations against Shi'ite terrorism, then this was a despicable declaration against the French soldiers.

Shamir on UNIFIL Cooperation

TA272012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Israel has informed France that it has no difference of opinion with it and it will do all it can to cooperate with UNIFIL soldiers in southern Lebanon. This was reported by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to correspondents following France's complaint about the remarks by Minister Rabin against the French soldiers in UNIFIL.

Bavaria's Strauss Meets With President Herzog

LD271756 Hamburg DPA in German 1246 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Jerusalem, 27 Feb (DPA) — At the start of his political talks in Jerusalem, Bavarian Prime Minister and CSU Chairman Franz Josef Strauss had to listen to serious criticism of his support for German arms deliveries to the Near East. Today President Hayim Herzog and Shlomo Hillel, chairman of the Knesset, the parliament in Jerusalem, warned especially against German arms for Saudi Arabia.

A spokesman for the president, answering an question, said that the 1-hour discussion with Strauss was "very lively" and that there were "some differences of opinion." Herzog presented a copy of his book *Arab-Israeli Wars* and called on the guest to read in it "that the Saudis have taken part in all the wars against Israel."

Minister Without Portfolio Ezer Weizman, who conveyed an invitation for a visit to Israel from Shim'on Peres to Strauss some months ago, was also present at the talk. Peres expects the CSU leader for a talk in the afternoon.

Strauss made no statement about what was said during a meeting of more than 1-hour with Hillel. He "came to listen," he said. But Hillel said that he considered it his duty to inform the visitor from Munich "about the feelings provoked in our nation by the thought of German weapons in Saudi hands."

He also tried to make clear to Strauss, "because he is a friend of Israel," that such dealings "will be gambling with the destiny of our state," Hillel said. On the previous evening in Bonn, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir spoke of a "knife thrust into the heart of the Jewish people."

The chairman of the Knesset added that the Bavarian guest "offered various explanations" for his position "which I hope I was able to answer one by one."

Strauss, Peres Meeting

TA271719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Bavarian Minister President Franz-Jozef Strauss met with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres this evening, shortly after the latter concluded his meeting with the Egyptian envoys. Strauss praised Peres' foreign and domestic policies and said they not only merit support in Israel proper but also in Europe. Strauss said he discussed Israel's economic problems and economic cooperation with Germany with Peres. Replying to a question by our correspondent Gid'on Remez, the Bavarian minister president said that they had held a concrete discussion and that he had raised proposals for joint economic enterprises which cannot yet be disclosed.

Argentinian, FRG Presidents Due on Official Visits

TA271157 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin will conduct an official visit to Israel in June. This will be the first visit to Israel by a high-ranking Argentinian personality, and it follows an earlier visit to Argentina a few months ago by an Israeli parliamentary delegation, whose members conferred with the president. Alfonsin is considered pro-Israeli, and Israel welcomed his election which symbolized the renewal of democratic rule in Argentina. Ever since his election, Israeli bodies have been maintaining contact with him to find out what befell the thousands of missing Jews who disappeared during the reign of the military junta in Argentina. This issue will also be raised during Alfonsin's visit here.

The president of the FRG, Richard von Weizsaecker, will conduct an official visit to Israel in October. This will be the first visit by a German president. Von Weizsaecker has recently visited several Middle Eastern countries.

The two men will meet here with President Hayim Herzog and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Incident With Lebanese Army Termed 'Mistake'

TA272010 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The first firing incident between IDF and Lebanese Army soldiers took place today along the new line in southern Lebanon.

Reacting to the incident, the Syrian foreign minister said this evening that Syria would not allow Lebanon to stand alone against Israel.

Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports the following details on the incident: This afternoon, IDF soldiers chased a groupof terrorists near the village of Kawthariyat al-Siyad, on the line separating the forces, not far from Al-Nabatiyah. A group of Lebanese Army soldiers was deployed close to the terrorists. The IDF soldiers fired at the terrorists, and the Lebanese Army soldiers fired back at our soldiers. The Israeli force returned to the area under IDF control, and when the firing continued from the Lebanese side, one of the Israeli tanks fired a warning shell at the area controlled by the Lebanese Army. The incident was settled after a telephone discussion between IDF and Lebanese Army representatives. Military sources stressed that the IDF has no intention of acting against the Lebanese Army, and that the incident was a mistake.

Budget Draft Bill Passes Following Peres Pressure

TA271836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The state budget law passed its first reading in the Knesset today. The vote of 52 in favor to 17 against was the result of intense last minute pressure by Prime Minister Peres on Labor members opposed to the budget provisions. Ruth Blaukopf reports:

When the state budget law came to the vote in its first reading, after over 9 hours of debate, the Knesset plenum was the scene of a remarkable display of party discipline. Would-be renegades in the Labor camp on the issue of health budget provisions fell into line under the stern party discipline of Shim'on Peres. In fact, the only controversy caused came from the Likud side of the coalition. With Finance Minister Moda'i in the United States and Moshe Arens, his deputy, nowhere in sight in the Knesset plenum, Labor members had a field day complaining about the absence of any Likud ministerial representation. Defense Minister Rabin and Labor's Ora Namir and Gad Ya'aqobi were all for postponing the vote, but fortunately perhaps for Shim'on Peres, his earlier efforts to achieve Labor consensus in support of the budget were not wasted and the vote went ahead on schedule.

The prime minister had called his party to order in a faction meeting at noon today, facing threats from Health Minister Gur, Yisra'el Qeysar, and Refa'el Edri to break party discipline over the reduction in allocations to Israel's sick funds. Peres chaired a stormy meeting, in which he bluntly put Labor on notice that if it wanted to vote against the budget, it might just as well leave the coalition. There was no more money, Peres said bitterly, and if this was how Labor members felt, then clearly the peace process, Lebanon, and the economy could all be dispensed with. Peres' impassioned rhetorical indictment of his party colleagues proved almost totally effective. Mordekhay Gur, who had threatened to boycott the vote, supported the budget law. Yisra'el Qeysar was merely absent for the vote. There was no Labor opposition. Labor is now seeking a $70 million addition to sick fund allocations before the second and third readings of the budget law.

Knesset Approves Supplementary Budget

TA280653 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Feb 85 p 2

[Report by the Knesset correspondent]

[Text] The Knesset yesterday passed the second and third readings of the IS [Israel skekels] 1.125 trillion supplementary budget for fiscal 1984 ending March 31.

The House unexpectedly passed a minority proposal by Gershon Shafat (Tehiya) increasing by IS 19.1 billion grants for the encouragement of capital investment.

OAU Session Adopts Plan for Southern Africa Struggle

EA271853 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] In addition to discussing the African refugee issue, the 41st OAU ministerial session today adopted an action plan aimed at further strengthening the liberation struggle in southern Africa.

In its afternoon meeting, the session assessed in detail the report of the Accra African Liberation Committee meeting and all African member states which have not yet paid their contributions to the Liberation Committee, which amounted to $14 million, were urged to pay.

An appeal was made to the international community to give its diplomatic, financial, material, and other necessary support to the liberation struggle being carried out in South Africa and to those independent countries bordering the racist regime.

1985-86 Budget Adopted

EA271213 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Continuing its meeting, the 41st OAU ministerial session yesterday discussed financial matters and adopted the organization's 1985-86 budget of 23,254,266 dollars. According to a statement made by the session's spokesman yesterday, this year's budget exceeds the 1984-85 budget by 8.10 percent, or 2,050,935 dollars.

The political affairs committee, chaired by Tanzania, with Malawi as rapporteur, studied the interim secretary general's report on aid for African refugees. It also discussed and properly assessed the draft agreement on sanctions against South Africa and Zionist Israel, which, the spokesman said, would be presented for adoption by the regular ministerial session.

The committee dealing with cultural, scientific, educational, and social affairs, chaired by Egypt, with Malawi as rapporteur, exhaustively studied and adopted the report on the educational cooperation needed among African countries. The committee also accepted the report calling for a continental agreement authorizing recognition of the certificates, diplomas, and degrees issued by the continent's higher educational institutions.

Niger Secretary General Candidate

AB272116 Paris AFP in French 1753 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Dakar, 27 Feb (AFP) — Ide Oumarou, Niger minister of foreign affairs, will be nominated by Niger as candidate for the post of the OAU secretary general at the end of the mandate of Peter Onu, the incumbent interim secretary general, the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, PANA, announced today.

Ide Oumarou, who confirmed his candidacy in Addis Ababa, where he is taking part in the OAU ministerial council meeting, told PANA that Niger has approached "many countries" and that these countries have pledged support. He did not specify what countries were concerned, or their number.

The post of OAU secretary general was not filled at the 19th and 20th summits of the organization because none of the two candidates for the post, Malian Alioune Beye and Gabonese Paul Okumba, had polled a sufficient number of votes to be elected. Ide Oumarou gave assurance that Niger decided to nominate him, getting in touch with the authorities of Gabon and Mali, PANA added.

UN Economic Commission Meeting Begins in Ndjamena

AB271749 Paris AFP in French 1552 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, 27 Feb (AFP) — The experts committee of the Multinational Programming and Operational Center (Mulpoc) of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) began a meeting here today, to be followed on 2-5 March by the 20th ECA ministerial session in the Chadian capital.

The Mulpoc experts committee — Cameroon, Congo, CAR, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, and Chad — will examine the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the previous ministerial session in late February 1984 in Brazzaville, it was said in Ndjamena.

Today's meeting was opened by Joseph Yodeyman, Chadian minister of plan and reconstruction, in the presence of delegations from Cameroon, Congo, and CAR. The other delegations are expected. The ECA delegation is led by Assin Diawara, who represents Adebayo Adedeji, ECA executive secretary.

In his opening speech, Mr Yodeyman urged the participants to "pinpoint the strangleholds" on the economy of the subregion and to devote their deliberations to projects likely to be rapidly implemented.

For his part, Mr Diawara pointed out the deterioration of the terms of exchange, which, he said, continues to "diminish our export revenues, to hamper our efforts toward the recovery and the rebuilding of our countries." After recalling that the drought has hit hard most African countries, the ECA representative said that by the end of the 20th century the African Continent would sustain the pressure of the population increase, leading to a greater dependence in the field of foodstuffs. In this regard, Mr Diawara stressed the need for the countries concerned to streamline their efforts and harmonize their development programs.

ALGERIA

Polish Foreign Minister Arrives in Algiers

PM261926 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 20 Feb 85 p 3

[APS report: "Polish Foreign Minister Olszowski Stresses Important Role Played by Algeria at International Level"]

[Text] Algiers — Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski arrived in Algiers yesterday afternoon for an official visit of several days to Algeria.

He was welcomed on his arrival at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and foreign minister, accompanied by officials of his ministry and by the two countries' ambassadors.

In a statement to the press Mr Olszowski expressed his conviction that his talks with Algerian officials "will provide an excellent opportunity to exchange views on key current problems."

He added that prospects for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the various spheres will also be at the center of his talks with the Algerian officials. "We think there is considerable unused potential for the development of mutually advantageous economic cooperation between the two countries," he explained.

After stressing the important role which Algeria plays on the internationl level especially in the Nonaligned Movement, the Polish minister expressed his conviction that his visit to Algeria will make a tangible contribution to enriching bilateral cooperation and to joint Algerian and Polish efforts to promote peace, international security, and progress.

LIBYA

People's Congress Committee Meetings Continue

LD271610 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 7, February 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The General People's Congress (G.P.C.) resumed the meetings of its 10th ordinary session at the People's Hall in Tripoli, to discuss the resolutions adopted by basic people's congresses during the 1984 third ordinary session.

Five committees were today concentrating on these resolutions.

The first committee took up the 1985 administrative and transformation budgets, the second reviewed the organization of public corporations and companies, the third concentrated on the second article relating to the Jamahiri (masses) neighborhood, the transformation of towns and villages into productive centers, the fourth took up the law on the exploitation of positions and professions and the people's committees amendment laws, while the fifth concentrated on foreign policy, mainly Anglo-Libyan relations and all treaties and agreements concluded in 1984.

MOROCCO

KUNA: Joint Institutions With Libya Approved

LD271246 Kuwait KUNA in English 1155 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Rabat, Feb 27 (KUNA) — The union between Morocco and Libya, concluded last August, will be given a fresh impetus as the two countries have decided to set up its institutions next month, informed sources told KUNA wednesday.

The sources said King Hassan II has approved the setting up of a union court and appointing its counsellors, establishing a joint economic council, earmarking a budget for the union and forming a general secretariat which serves as a ministerial council.

SUDAN

President's Assistant Reportedly Resigns

GF091420 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 8 Feb 85 p 19

["Exclusive" report]

[Excerpt] Informed Sudanese sources have told *AL-SIYASAH* that the assistant to the president of the Republic, Dr Hasan al-Turabi, recently presented his resignation to President Ja'far Numayri. In his resignation letter, Al-Turabi informed Numayri that he was resigning in order to assume a teaching post at an American university and that he also wanted to leave the political arena.

The sources added that Dr al-Turabi, who is the leader of the banned Muslim Brothers Party, has not received an answer to his resignation letter which was submitted 3 weeks ago. A week after he submitted his resignation, he stayed at home. The sources affirmed that Al-Turabi has actually received a proposition from an American university, but that this is not the direct reason for his resignation.

The sources added that the assistant to the president began to feel depressed after Numayri implemented a series of amendments to the political organs aimed at curbing the Muslim brothers from penetrating the executive authorities.

Officials Arrested for Violating Currency Laws

JN271900 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Feb (SUNA) — The state security organ has uncovered and arrested officials in a Khartoum company who smuggled out the savings belonging to Sudanese citizens working abroad by means of issuing checks and payment orders in Sudanese currency through a money exchange bureau outside Sudan in exchange for their savings in hard currencies.

A responsible source in the economic department of the state security organ has told SUNA that the sum disbursed is more than 1 million Sudanese pounds: 276,000 pounds in checks, and 741,624 pounds in payment orders, which have already been cashed; and 34,000 pounds in checks which have not yet been

cashed. Some eight checks amounting to 67,000 pounds and another check for 23,000 pounds were seized today at the Sudanese company's offices. All of these checks were issued by the aforementioned money exchange bureau.

The source told SUNA that the money exchange bureau abroad issues checks or payment orders to Sudanese citizens and asks them to cash them at the company offices in Khartoum. The company pays them in Sudanese currency. More than 100 checks and payment orders have so far been seized.

The source added that the investigation of the company officials who have been arrested while in possession of uncashed checks and payment orders is continuing.

The source stated that this operation is most harmful to the national economy, because the company keeps the hard currencies outside the country and exposes Sudanese citizens to measures that could deprive them of their rights, necessitating the seizure of their funds. Furthermore, this operation results in illegal profits for those receiving the foreign currencies abroad and also for the company in Sudan through commissions and the difference in the rate of exchange.

The source urged Sudanese citizens who possess any checks or payment orders from any companies or foreign quarters to hand them over to the economic department of the state security organ for the sake of safeguarding their rights and funds. He said that the department will take into consideration the good intentions of the Sudanese citizens who were deceived by foreign currency smugglers and professionals specializing in seizing Sudanese citizens' savings abroad.

The source said that existing government establishments, as well as others that will be started soon, will guarantee the rights of Sudanese citizens both inside and outside the country and will give them more advantages than the difference in the rates of exchange they might obtain through such illegal operations, which only result in the loss of what they have earned through their hard work and sweat.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Spain, EEC, Maghreb

PM261852 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 20 Feb 85 p 2

[Interview with Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Is there any special reason for your visit to Madrid next Monday?
Answer: No, it is a normal working visit. We belong to the same geographical region of the Mediterranean and have long-standing, friendly relations with Spain. At the end of 1983 we had the great honor to receive in Tunis the official visit by His Majesty King Juan Carlos, accompanied by his foreign minister, Fernando Moran; the latter invited me to visit Spain. Thus we will be able to review the international situation and, obviously, bilateral relations, which are excellent but which should develop even further.

Question: Some Maghreb countries regard the enlargement of the EEC to include Spain and Portugal as destabilizing.
Answer: I do not believe so. The enlargement of the EEC is of interest to the Europeans and to Spain. As a country belonging to the geographical area of Europe, it has a vocation to form part of the EEC. Tunisia has no objection to that.

Question: But will the topic figure on your agenda?
Answer: We do indeed have problems with the EEC, but those problems existed long before Spain's entry. Unfortunately, since the international economic crisis began, Europe started to adopt protectionist or restrictive measures against the placing of our products on the European market and as regards the movement of people from the Maghreb. Our problem is that the agreements which we signed with the EEC in 1976 have not been implemented either in letter or in spirit, and Tunisia, like other Maghreb countries, is in constant contact with its European partners and with the EEC's structures in order to defend its rights.

Question: Does Tunisia believe, like the king of Morocco, that it can preserve those rights by seeking entry as an associate state of the EEC?
Answer: No. Taking into account the enlargement of the EEC to include Spain and Portugal, we ask to be informed about those negotiations in order to preserve the balance of our relations with the EEC and to defend our interests. Europe is a natural market for us; it is our foremost customer and supplier, and any change in this balance would be of importance to us. But we have no political or other objection to that enlargement.

Question: There is in fact little contact between Spain and Tunisia.
Answer: There are opportunities for cooperation to be developed. If you are referring to current trade, you will see that that there is a considerable imbalance in favor of Spain, which cannot be maintained for long. There are also cultural relations which, in our opinion, should be on a very considerable scale. There is a considerable shared historical heritage between Spain and Tunisia which cries out [illegible] the development of those relations. Lack of such development [illegible] not normal.

Question: It has been said in Tunis that there will be a meeting of the five Maghreb states before the end of March. On what date and on what basis?
Answer: It is too early to give a date, because what we have is just the leaders' agreement in principle to hold a summit. But that requires preparation, and there are material restrictions and those of the schedules of the heads of state. Anyway, we are working to that end.

Question: The latest secret discussions between the Algerians and Moroccans on the Sahara have gone quite far but seem to have failed.
Answer: I do not know about that. I am not informed about those discussions, but the important thing is that there is a dialogue. Moreover, the summit will meet not to resolve a single problem but to spell out the will of all the heads of state in the region to consider the future with a joint attitude. We must meet the challenges confronting us jointly. A summit would symbolize the will to resolve our problems through dialogue.

Question: But the Sahara is the only problem preventing the unity of the Maghreb.
Answer: That will have to be seen when we meet.

Question: There is talk of two axes in the Maghreb: the Treaty of Fraternity (Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania) and the Libyan-Moroccan union.
Answer: Tunisia is opposed to the policy of axes. The Algerian-Tunisian treaty is no axis, since it has been open from the beginning to all the other Maghreb states. Algeria and Tunisia acted jointly to propose it for the other countries' accession.

Question: But Libya says that it could not accede because a prior border agreement with Algeria was demanded, and Morocco asserts that it could not do so because an attempt was made to impose a sixth state — the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic — on it.
Answer: That is untrue. We proposed the treaty to Morocco, Mauritania, and Libya. Mauritania acceded to it. Libya sought accession, it is true, and we replied to it that we must meet to study the terms, but, unfortunately, that meeting did not take place. Morocco never sought accession.

Question: Because it was a treaty envisaged for six states.
Answer: That, I repeat, is untrue, and I can prove it by the fact that Tunisia does not recognize the SDAR. That treaty has been proposed to those five countries alone. However, the Libyan-Moroccan treaty is rather different, since it involves a union between states which have decided to unite their destinies, while our treaty is no union at all.

Question: What is your opinion of the recent agreement between King Husayn of Jordan and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat?
Answer: We proceed from the principle of noninterference in the affairs of the liberation movements which we support. In our opinion, the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and should be allowed to make its decisions independently. The platform signed between Husayn of Jordan and 'Arafat is the outcome of a free decision which we support.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Downs German Plane, Blames Morocco

LD272147 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Mohammed Boukari, the director of the European Department of the Polisario Front, told Madrid Radio that it was his organization which this Sunday [25 February] shot down a German plane, a Dornier D-228. Boukari said that this type of plane is the same as that used by the Moroccans for military reconnaissance in the Sahara. The Polisario representative blames Morocco for the incident:

[Begin Boukari recording] It is indeed a war zone, and it is precisely this type of plane — a D-228 — which the Moroccans use for air and sea reconnaissance. The Polisario Front regrets any casualties involving innocent people in this conflict. I believe that the Moroccans have again let planes through, as happened with the plane with Belgian pilots — apparently it was a light aircraft as well. I believe that the European governments should warn their citizens not to pass through an area which is a real risk because of the war. I think this is very clear and whoever goes there must realize the danger. [end recording]

APS: SDAR Forces Announce Attack on Moroccans

LD271716 Algiers APS in English 1545 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] SADR (Liberated Territories), 27-2-85 (APS) — "Belts of Moroccan monarchist forces in the region of Amserdad, near Bu Craa" have again been attacked by the SPLA [Sahraoui People's Liberation Army] during two hours.

"Violents fights in spite of the intervention of reinforcements dispatched," on the ground a communique from the Sahraoui Ministry of Information announced. The Sahraoui communique situated this attack of Sahraoui combatants on Tuesday 26 February "at the eve of the 9th anniversary of SADR proclamation."

Moroccan Casualties

LD272340 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] A statement issued yesterday [27 February] by the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture said that the Saharan Liberation Army launched an attack near Bu Craa for 2 hours against the positions of the Royal Moroccan Forces, despite the reinforcements sent to the scene.

The Saharan statement said that the attack resulted in the killing of 42 and the wounding of 67 Moroccan soldiers, in addition to the destruction of large quantities of weapons and military equipment.

Colombia Recognizes SDAR, To Exchange Envoys

PA271650 Paris AFP in English 1623 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Algiers, Feb 27(AFP) — Colombia today recognized the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) proclaimed by the Polisario Front in Western Sahara becoming the 61st country to do so, an SADR communique said here today.

The communique said that "the two governments, in conformity with the United Nations Charter, would exchange non-resident ambassadors" tomorrow, the ninth anniversary of the proclamation of the SADR.

Colombia is the second country after Yugoslavia to recognize the republic since the SADR took its seat last November as the 51st member-state of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

That decision led Morocco, a founding OAU member state, to pull out of the organization, while one of its supporters, Zaire, suspended its participation in the OAU. The Algerian-backed Polisario Front has been fighting Morocco for control of the Western Sahara since Spain gave up the territory in 1975.

APS Hails Diplomatic Ties

LD271755 Algiers APS in English 1535 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Algiers, 27-2-85 (APS) — SDAR (Saharan Arab Democratic Republic) recognition by Colombia, and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which intervene at the time when the Saharan people commemorate the 9th anniversary of the proclamation of its state, consecrate a new diplomatic victory, important through many aspects. First of all, because it shows again SDAR national and international reality and comes within the best traditions of the Colombian diplomacy, very active on the regional and international scene in favor of the achievement of the Non-Aligned Movement objectives and the UN Charter principles.

One is to states [as received], on another turn, that with Colombia, it is the member countries of the Contadora Group which will have the four of them established diplomatic relations with SDAR, extending then their commitment in favor of negotiated political solutions to disagreements existing in their own region in the same commitment for the advent of a just and definitive peace in north west Africa.

At the present time, in all the continents, the flag of the Saharan state is flying on the wall of its diplomatic representatives as it is flying on the seat of the OAU whose SDAR is a full member, in many capitals of states having not yet proclaimed their recognition of SDAR.

The international importance of SDAR is going beyond the interstate frame since the political parties of all the countries, groups of parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations and very important personalities are working for the popularization of the cause whose Sahran state is the result.

Polisario Figure Sees SDAR Unity as Weapon

LD272335 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] celebrates its ninth anniversary today. What is the record of those 9 years on the military and diplomatic levels? Mr Ould Salek, official in charge of external relations in the Polisario Front, explains:

[Begin recording] On the military level, there is a worldwide, unanimous conviction that Morocco, after 10 years of war and aggression against our country, has not managed to occupy our territory or to silence our resistance. On the contrary, Moroccan forces still continue to occupy zones of the SDAR by using walls, by barricading themselves behind walls to which they owe their continued existence. After years of their forces suffering enormous defeats, they can no longer directly confront the Saharan army. [end recording]

Mr Ould Salek also talks about the achievements on the economic and social levels of the Saharan revolution during those 9 years:

[Begin recording] Politically, on the internal level — where my people are mobilized more than ever, more determined than ever to continue the fight to safeguard their national identity and rights — we have succeeded in solving the difficulties due to the war, even though we are a country which, as part of the Sahel, has experienced drought and poverty too. We have built schools and hospitals in very difficult conditions, and we have a democratic system in which all the people participate. It is a social revolution; Saharan women and the Saharan men take part in it on an equal footing. The whole people has the initiative and controls its fate.

I think the most important conclusion to draw from this internal political and social policy is that today the Saharan people are conscious of their role and strength, the strength of a united people, and, if you like, that is the most important result of the Saharan revolution. The people are united behind their vanguard.

The Saharan people identify with the Polisario Front. All the Saharans are in the Polisario Front, and that is very important. I think this is our strength and the most important weapon — one which Hassan II denies. He denies the support we receive from [words indistinct]. They can neither build, nor buy, nor make a weapon as formidable or as important as that of the determination of the Saharan people, their unity, and their determination to continue fighting until total independence is obtained. [end recording]

The diplomatic corps accredited to Rabat has refused to go to El Aaiun next month, in Saharan territory, where the king of Morocco is planning to celebrate Throne Day. The Polisario Front official in charge of external relations gives his point of view:

[Begin Ould Salek recording] It is clear that the king of Morocco and his regime are isolated on the diplomatic level. This isolation comes from the fact that he is a [words indistinct], that he practices a policy of fait accompli, and his fait accompli policy is disputed by the United Nations, the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, and by international public opinion. [end recording]

ETHIOPIA

PDRY's Nasir Muhammad Ends Visit to Addis Ababa

EA271204 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] and the leader of the PDRY, left for Damascus this morning for a similar visit after holding talks with Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces.

On departure from Addis Ababa, Comrade 'Ali Nasir was seen off by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam at Bole International Airport. The guard of honor presented a salute to the two leaders, the anthems of the two countries were played, and the guard of honor was inspected.

Present during the sendoff were: Comrade Fiseha Desta, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and secretary; WPE Central Committee Politburo members and alternate members; WPE Central Committee members; and other high-ranking officials.

During his stay here, Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad held extensive talks on important points of immediate significance to the strengthening of relations between revolutionary Ethiopia and the PDRY, whose friendship is constantly flourishing, and on international issues.

Tigre Front Rejects Bush Charge on Obstructing Aid

EA271232 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali 0930 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] has rejected the accusation made by U.S. Vice President George Bush that it shares responsibility with the Ethiopian Government for obstructing the flow of foreign aid to famine victims. Mr Bush said in Washington on Monday that both sides were equally responsible for the obstruction and that the conflict between the two had made it impossible for aid to reach drought victims in Tigray and Eritrea.

In a statement, the TPLF has made it clear that it is in no way responsible for the prevailing problem, adding that it proposed a cease-fire to the Mengistu regime, which was rejected. The statement was released in Mogadishu and London.

CAMEROON

Biya Receives Message From Gabon's Bongo

AB271750 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] President Paul Biya today received at the State House a special envoy of Gabonese President Omar Bongo. The emissary, Mr Auge Leon, was bearer of a special message from the Gabonese leader, who is also secretary general and founder of the Gabonese Democratic Party.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Concerned Raised Over Libyan-Opposition Links

AB271605 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Bangui, Feb 27 (AFP) — Libyan agents using the Central African Republic as a base for support to rebels battling the government in neighboring Chad have become a key source of domestic instability here, official Central African sources said.

Authorities in Bangui have not revealed any details concerning the activities of alleged Libyan agents, saying only that Libyan diplomats and their contacts here were permanently under "close surveillance". Officials sources said the recent arrests had "weakened" the Libyan network in the country.

Nevertheless, a government official said Libya continued to use the Central African Republic as a relay point for communicating with the Chadian rebels, notably via a radio transmitter stationed in the north of the country. He said Central African intelligence had monitored regular Libyan broadcasts to GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] headquarters in Bardai, northern Chad. "These messages dealt with the situation in Chad...we know that there is a receiver-transmitter located somewhere 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Bangui, but we have been unable to put our hands on it," the official said.

Sources close to General Kolingba said one of the government's prime concerns was the possible linkup between Libyan elements and domestic opposition groups.

ZAIRE

Opposition Issues Statement on Kivu Disturbances

AB272037 Paris AFP in French 1904 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Brussels, 27 Feb (AFP) — The Lumumba Congolese National Movement [MNCL], Zairian opposition movement which refers to the assassinated former prime minister, has just published a list of 60 persons who, it asserts, have been killed by government troops during incidents that occured in the Kivu region (in the eastern part of the country) at the end of last year.

According to the MNCL statement, which was received in Brussels on Wednesday, about 200 persons have been killed "in Kivu Province, in the area situated between Lubutu-Walikale and the Maiko plain, by Mobutu's soldiers upon the orders of General Danga Ngbokoli in charge of the Third Military Region ...and who was retired last January."

"Despite difficulties in carrying out investigations into the incident," the statement added, "the high command of the MNCL forces has sent us the names of the missing men, most of whom are heads of family."

The MNCL "demands the establishing of a regime led by integrated and competent patriots" and it believes that President "Mobutu constitutes an element of instability in Central Africa and that he can no longer continue to toy with the people's wish."

The statement was signed by Albert Onawehlo and Daniel Mayele on behalf of the "political bureau and the coordinating committee of the MNC-Lumumba," whose "headquarters" is believed to be Kisangani, according to the statement.

Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde Deny Lisbon Report on Troops

AB280815 Paris AFP in English 0720 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Bissau, Feb. 28 (AFP) — Portuguese radio reports that Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome were to send troops to Angola and Mozambique to help combat rebel movements were denied here Wednesday by the Guinea-Bissau news agency.

Commercial radio in Lisbon said on Monday that the decision had been made at a summit of the five countries in Sao Tome a fortnight ago. The news agency, citing official sources, said an appeal for material aid and troops had been made to all African countries, not just to the three Portuguese-speaking ones named in the radio report. The heads of state at the summit had asked for help, the agency said, because South Africa was failing to respect its security pact with Mozambique and its troop withdrawal agreement with Angola, and its territory was still being used as a base by rebels.

The Cape Verde Foreign Ministry issued a similar denial.

LIBERIA

Doe To Visit Guinea-Bissau 28-29 February

AB271816 Monrovia ELWA Radio in English 1710 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The head of state and president of the Interim National Assembly [INA], Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, leaves the country tomorrow morning for a 2-day official working visit to Guinea-Bissau. The presidential Boeing-727 will depart the James Spriggs Payne Airfield at 0900 tomorrow morning.

According to an Executive Mansion release issued in Monrovia today, Dr Doe will be accompanied by a 15-man official delegation including Brigadier General Abraham D. Kollie, deputy vice head of state, Brigadier General Jeffred Gbatu, speaker of the INA, and Counselor Patrick Biddle, secretary general, INA. Others are Major G. Alvin Jones, minister of finance, Major Emanuel Gardiner, minister of planning and economic affairs, Colonel Edward Sackor, minister of internal affairs, and Major Carlton Karpeh, minister of information.

MALI

New Envoy to Bulgaria Discusses Economic Ties

AB280820 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Malian Ambassador Major Souleymane Sidibe presented his letters of credence a week ago to His Excellency Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in Sofia. He also held talks with the Bulgarian ministers of foreign affairs, economic cooperation [as heard], and national education. During these talks, he noted a real desire to revive economic and political cooperation between our two countries.

A Bulgarian economic delegation is expected to visit Bamako next month to discuss with Malian authorities the revival of cooperation ties between our two countries. According to the ambassador, the Bulgarian authorities are prepared to invite our minister of finance and commerce to the exhibition and fair that will take place in the Bulgarian capital in May. During that visit, our minister of finance will discuss the practical modalities for the revival of bilateral cooperation. Ambassador Sidibe also said that our minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation has been invited to Bulgaria at a later date.

NIGERIA

Buhari Comments on Border Closing Policy

AB272001 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The ministerial committee on border trade between Nigeria and her neighbors has completed its work. This was made known today at Dodan Barracks by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, while receiving a message from President Seyni Kountche of Niger Republic. The head of state said that the report will be studied before government advises the neighboring countries concerned for formal talks. Gen Buhari remarked that Nigeria will not close her border more than necessary in view of her commitment to promote neighborliness.

The message was delivered by a member of Niger's Supreme Military Council, Mr (Tanja Mamoudou). Mr (Mamoudou) said that his country will always seek Nigeria's understanding in pursuing her interests.

Bulgarian Firms Might 'Fold' Over Debt Issue

AB272008 Lagos NAN in English 0900 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Bauchi, Feb 27 (NAN) — The Bauchi military governor, Brig Sani Sami, yesterday in Bauchi called for Bulgarian assistance in combating the menace of drought in the northern parts of the country. He told the Bulgarian ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Dimitur Vulev, who visited him, that such assistance could be in the form of viable agricultural programme, particularly irrigation. The governor expressed appreciation for the cordial relationship that had existed over the years between Nigeria and Bulgaria, adding that Nigeria had been benefitting from Bulgaria in the field of education, medicine and the construction industry. The governor said that he was satisfied with the quality of work of some Bulgarian firms handling various construction projects in the state and that he was aware of government indebtedness to them.

The ambassador said that Bulgarian firms operating in the state had executed projects worth 4.5 million naira since the inception of the present military administration. He said that some of the companies might soon fold up unless the government settled the debts it was owing them, saying that one of the companies, Tecnoexport-Roy, which had been borrowing from banks to execute contracts, could no longer do so due to the high interest rate.

Lagos Sees Diplomatic Ties With PLO as Peace Move

AB271744 Lagos International Service in English 0955 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Viewpoint]

[Text] Since its creation in 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, has distinguished itself as the principal factor in the whole web of the crisis in the Middle East. It is totally dedicated to the standing of a multinational and multiconfessional state of Palestine in the Middle East. But this goal is opposed by Israel and some of its Western allies, thereby prolonging the Middle East crisis. In contrast to the Israeli opposition, the United Nations is in full support of the right of the Palestinians to a homeland of their own. In a resolution adopted on 24 November 1974, the UN General Assembly reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to unhindered self-determination, national independence, and sovereignty.

It is in the spirit of this affirmation that many member states of the United Nations, particularly those of the Arab world, have accorded diplomatic recognition to the PLO. All along, Nigeria has identified herself with the aspirations of the Palestinians for a homeland in the Middle East. Nigeria strongly believes that the settlement of the Palestinian issue is crucial to the attainment of comprehensive peace in that region. Therefore, the action of the Nigerian military government to establish diplomatic relations with the PLO has the potentials to accelerate the search for a lasting solution to the Middle East problem.

One cannot but note the similarity between Nigeria's offer of diplomatic ties with the PLO and her recognition of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, SDAR, declared in Western Sahara by the Polisario Front. It was that action of Nigeria on the eve of the 20th summit of the OAU that paved the way for the eventual sitting of SDAR in the assembly of African heads of state and government. It is also reminiscent of a similar action by a previous military regime in Nigeria which led to the OAU's acceptance of the MPLA as the rightful government of Angola in 1975.

Now that Nigeria has taken the initiative of establishing diplomatic relations with the PLO, she has reminded the international community that the way to peace in the Middle East lies in the recognition of the right of the Palestinians to be in separate existence as a state. In fact, the Balfour declaration made by Britain in 1917 and which led ultimately to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, also recognized the right of other people, including the Palestinians, to statehood. It is to be hoped, therefore, that all those who are interested in peace in the Middle East will (?join efforts) with the Nigerian Government so as to prevail on Israel to give peace chance.

NIGERIAN TIDE Criticizes U.S. Policy on Nicaragua

AB270930 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Press review]

[Text] The *NIGERIAN TIDE* discusses the U.S. foreign policy towards Nicaragua. The paper condemns the U.S. proposal of 12.5 million naira aid to antigovernment forces in Nicaragua. The *TIDE* explains that the move is part of efforts by the U.S. Government to overthrow the legitimate administration in that country.

SENEGAL

Diouf on Upcoming Visit to Egypt, Mideast Peace

NC251510 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Dakar, 27 Feb (MENA) — Senegalese President Abdou Diouf has stated that his upcoming state visit to Egypt on Saturday falls within the framework of the exemplary and constant cooperation between Egypt and Senegal.

In a statement to MENA, he said that he takes this opportunity to thank President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government and people for this invitation, which is indicative of the depth of relations between the two countries.

He said that the main aim of his visit to Egypt, which will be the third such trip, is to strengthen the relations of fraternity and friendship between Senegal and Egypt within the framework of African solidarity.

Asked about Senegal's role vis-a-vis the Middle East problem and the situation in Lebanon, the Senegalese president said that his country shows great interest in a resolution of the Middle East crisis and continues to make the efforts necessary for restoring security and peace to the region. He expressed the view that respect for UN resolutions must lead the world community to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and the Arab territory occupied in 1967 and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He said that his country's efforts in this direction are clear and tangible, all the more so because Senegal is the chairman of the UN Committee on Palestine.

Concerning Lebanon, Senegal has expressed its solidarity with that country by sending forces there as part of the UN peacekeeping force, he added.

ANGOLA

UNITA Kills Three Cubans, One FAPLA Officer

MB271455 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 1200 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 27 Feb (KUP) — In the Cuanza Norte province, three Cubans and a People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola second lieutenant were killed in clashes with UNITA forces. Thirteen vehicles, including three armored cars transporting Cubans, were destroyed by UNITA forces in Samba-Caju-Kamabatela road in a place whose coordinates are 8 degrees, 26 minutes south, 15 degrees, 28 minutes east. The (Ypan), KrAZ, and Tatra trucks, which were destroyed, are made in East European countries.

Cuanza Sul Town Held

MB271247 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 1200 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 27 Feb (KUP) — The town of Caiba-Iba, situated south of Vila Nova do Seles, located at 11 degrees, 27 minutes south, 14 degrees, 27 minutes east, in Cuanza Sul Province has been under UNITA control since 4 February 1985. This has been disclosed in a communique for the first half of February issued by the UNITA chief of staff.

The town of Caiba-Iba was protected by a People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola battalion, and a People's Defense Organization battalion. During the attack, the MPLA suffered 19 dead and many wounded. UNITA captured 42 automatic light weapons, 4 offensive hand grenades, 700 kg of TNT explosives, and an assortment of military equipment.

UNITA has also launched an intensive bombardment against the Hote post, situated southeast of Novo Redondo at 11 degrees, 21 minutes south, 14 degrees, 5 minutes east, in Cuanza Sul Province. The MPLA forces suffered heavy losses.

LESOTHO

Jonathan, Minister Address Danish Delegation

MB271314 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, today told the visiting Danish foreign affairs parliamentary delegation in Maseru that South Africa's apartheid policy forms the crux of problems that stand in the way of cooperation and peaceful coexistance between South Africa and her neighbors. The prime minister said South Africa's so-called political dispensation has exacerbated the internal situation in that country and that no lasting peace can be achieved within the framework of apartheid. He added that this policy has created lots of problems not only in South Africa, but also between that country and her neighbors.

Citing the refugee problem as an example, the prime minister said, however, Lesotho will continue to fulfill her international obligation of accepting refugees on condition they accept and abide by their conditions of asylum. He said if no solution is devised to quickly dismantle apartheid, the current levels of desperation among the black peoples of South Africa will soar even higher with costly unpalatable consequences.

On Namibia, Dr Leabua Jonathan said Lesotho is convinced that the confrontation between South Africa and SWAPO will escalate if United Nations Resolution 435 is not implemented soon. If the question of the linkage of Cuban troops in Angola to Namibian independence is not removed, matters will take a turn for the worse, he added.

Speaking on the internal political situation in Lesotho, Dr Leabua Jonathan said that after the coming election, whose date may be announced any time, he hopes to have a loyal opposition in parliament in contrast to the subversive opposition behavior of the BCP [Basotholand Congress Party] in the past. He said it is this disgraceful behavior of the opposition that is responsible for the diminishing support of those parties by Basotho, who are a self-respecting people.

In answer to a question on the candidatures of women in the coming election, Dr Jonathan said that Lesotho ranks among the few African countries which have accorded women the same rights as men. He added that not only are they free to contest the coming election, but women in this country have the opportunity to occupy some of the highest positions in the civil service.

The prime minister told the Danish parliamentary delegation that there is a firm belief of democracy as handed down from Moshoeshoe I and that Basotho would never allow the introduction of a totalitarian government as much as they would never allow for the introduction of communism in this society.

Speaking on bilateral relations between Lesotho and Denmark, Dr Leabua Jonathan said the strong relations between the two countries have been concretely expressed in the assistance Denmark has given to Lesotho to help the government to fulfill its policy of extending basic services to the people in the rural areas. He expressed the hope that Denmark will increase the assistance to Lesotho, especially in such projects as will make this country self-sufficient in the agricultural production of our staple foods.

The minister of cooperatives and rural development, the Honorable D.P.G. Makoae, has said that the visit of the Danish parliamentarian committee to Lesotho will not only help to break Lesotho's geographical isolation, but also provide bridges of communication between the governments of the two countries.

Mr Makoae was speaking at a reception held in honor of the Danish parliamentarian committee last night at Lesotho Sun International Hotel in Maseru. He said Lesotho, like Denmark, attaches great importance to regional cooperation.

Citing the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, as an example, Mr Makoae expressed Lesotho's appreciation for the contribution that Denmark is channeling to SADCC. He told the reception that Lesotho believes peaceful

coexistance between her and South Africa cannot be guaranteed by a paper agreement, but can be guaranteed by the dismantling of apartheid. While on this point, Mr Makoae stressed that Lesotho will continue welcoming refugees from South Africa and elsewhere in the world.

Regarding Danish aid to Lesotho, the minister said the aid has gone a long way towards improving the socioeconomic life of the rural people, and, most important, it has penetrated several factors of the lives of the Basotho people.

The minister ended by saying that he is hopeful that as the Danish parliamentarians resume their sitting in parliament, they will have clear and first hand information about Lesotho.

MADAGASCAR

President Ratsiraka Receives Comoros Minister

MB271320 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1939 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] At the state palace of Ambohitsorohitra this morning, Didier Ratsiraka, the president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, received Ahmed Ali Mohamed, the minister in the office of the president of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros.

On the occasion, President Ratsiraka recalled that he has held talks with Ahmed Abdallah, the president of Comoros, during a number of international conferences. These talks, no matter how brief, he said, have permitted the two sides to observe the need to reestablish diplomatic relations between the two countries. Obviously, the holding of the third ministerial session of the Indian Ocean Commission, he said, had reinforced the relations — historic relations — between the two countries. President Didier Ratsiraka also explained the reason for sending a Malagasy presidential envoy to Comoros a few days ago. Malagasy and South African nationals, he said, have tried to destabilize the sovereignty of the country.

Earlier, Ahmed Ali Mohamed thanked the Malagasy head of state for having accorded him the audience within the framework of the desire of the two sides to normalize relations between the two countries. He noted that he had spent his youth and studied in Madagascar and, as such, recalling a Malagasy proverb, he pointed out that skills obtained from Madagascar had immensely contributed to the development of Comoros.

Military Cooperation With Soviet Union

LD261739 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Military cooperation between the Soviet Union and Madagascar: Moscow has just dispatched to that country a consignment of spare parts to maintain the two Yak-40 planes of the Malagasy Naval Air Force, as well as a credit to maintain the six heavy helicopters and the dozen MIG-21's which are currently in service in the Malagasy Air Force.

Following the training last year in the Soviet Union of 74 Malagasy specialists who have taken over from Soviet technical assistants, there should henceforth be no more than six Soviet experts currently working at the naval air base of Ivato near Antananarivo.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Sends Messages on Anniversaries

To Iran

MB271808 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] President Samora Machel has sent a message of greetings to his Iranian counterpart, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Iranian Islamic revolution.

I take this opportunity to express our wish to consolidate relations of friendship and develop cooperation between our peoples and countries for our mutual benefit and progress, the leader of the Mozambican revolution said in his message. In the message, the Mozambican statesman expresses the hope that peace and stability will be established in the Middle Eastern region.

To SDAR

MB271516 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique has sent a message of congratulations to the secretary general of Polisario and chairman of the Supreme Council of the Saharan revolution on another anniversary of the proclamation of SDAR, which is being marked today.

In the message, Samora Machel, on behalf of the people and government, and on his own behalf, condemned the continued occupation of the Saharan territory and the nonimplementation of relevant UN and OAU resolutions on the Sahara. While marking this date, we once again wish to reiterate our unwavering and unshakeable support for the struggle of the Saharan people, led by their vanguard, the Polisario Front, President Samora Machel's message said.

Maputo Asks for U.S. Pressure on RSA on Nkomati

MB271937 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The South African Government has admitted publicly that violations of the Nkomati Accord are taking place from South African territory. The South African Government also insists, however, that it is opposed to these violations and is trying to stop them.

If the Nkomati Accord was some kind of gentlemen's agreement with no legal standing, the South African plea might carry some weight. But Nkomati is not a gentlemen's agreement. It is a nonaggression and good neighborliness pact between states. It says the territory of one state must not be used as a springboard for attacks against the other. It does not say if South Africa can possibly prevent its territory being used, then it should do so. The agreement is categorical and says the attacks must stop. They have not stopped.

Every week, the terrorists are murdering dozens of people in Mozambique. Development projects designed to improve the standard of living of the Mozambican people are sabotaged. Attempts to help neighboring states break away from dependence on South Africa by using Mozambican ports and railways are the targets for military attacks.

There is then a clear case for action against South Africa to oblige it to honor the Nkomati Accord. The responsibility for this action lies with the West. The western countries have a deep economic involvement with South Africa.

The United States in particular has considerable influence with the South African Government. The United States has praised Mozambique for signing the Nkomati Accord. Frank Wisner of the State Department said recently that Samora Machel had brought light for there was darkness and provided a beacon which should serve as an example to other countries in the region. Mr Wisner has an interest in the Nkomati Accord because he helped to bring it about, and he was presumably acting on the instructions of President Reagan.

Logic dictates that the United States should now put pressure on the South African Government to honor the commitment it accepted by signing the Nkomati Accord. The beacon lit by Samora Machel will not attract any other country in the region unless Nkomati works and is seen to work. And if the United States does decide to put pressure on Pretoria, it should not do so on a line that if you honor Nkomati, we, the U.S., will finance apartheid. This is not the kind of pressure that Mozambique wants. It would be a betrayal of the people of South Africa.

By signing and honoring Nkomati, Mozambique has proved to the world that it is a peace-loving country. Only one government is violating the accord, and it is a government whose policies are recognized throughout the world as an obstacle to peace. A few days ago, President Samora Machel said the elimination of apartheid was necessary for achieving peace in the southern African region.

President Reagan also says he is opposed to apartheid. Therefore, when he decides to put pressure on Pretoria to respect Nkomati, he should also put pressure to authorize meaningful negotiations with the South African people's representatives on the question of democracy and majority rule.

Four 'Armed Bandits' Crossing From RSA Killed

MB271719 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Our Armed Forces the day before yesterday killed four armed bandits and wounded two others in the Chigogo region in Maputo Province. The Maputo provincial military command reported that those criminals were part of a group of eight armed bandits who crossed the South African border into Mozambique.

On the same occasion, our Armed Forces captured 3 light weapons magazines and a machinegun ammunition belt.

The source indicated that in other regions of Maputo Province, our Armed Forces, in conjunction with the people's military, are continuing to search, pursue, capture, and annihilate the gangsters.

SOUTH AFRICA

Uranium Enrichment Plant To Operate by 1987

MB271325 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1214 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 27, SAPA — South Africa's first uranium enrichment plant, near Pretoria, will come into operation by 1987, the Atomic Energy Corporation's executive chairman, Dr J.W. de Villiers, said today.

Dr de Villiers released a statement in Pretoria in which he reacted to recent news reports about the Valindaba plant and international fuel purchases by ESCOM [Electricity Supply Commission] for its Koeberg nuclear facility.

He said ESCOM would have to continue buying its enriched uranium abroad until Valindaba, which started contruction west of Pretoria in 1978, was in production and was able to supply sufficient fuel for the commission.

The plant was progressing on schedule, Dr de Villiers said, and should be completed in the next two years.

Local feed material would be used at Valindaba to produce 300 TSWU (tons separative work units) per year, which the statement said was "enough to supply South Africa's domestic demand."

The final cost of the enrichment plant had not yet been calculated.

Slabbert Comments on Change in Politics

MB271713 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The leader of the opposition in the House of Assembly has called on the government to establish a climate of trust with black leaders in the Cape Peninsula in order to pave the way for negotiation.

Addressing the Cape Town Press Club, Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert also touched on constitutional developments. He said the state president's recent speech on urban blacks represented an important shift in policy.

[Begin Slabbert recording] The overall significance of this shift is that we are moving away from the old-style confrontation politics on black constiutional development, and what I mean by that old-style confrontation politics was more or less the unilateral imposition of new policy guidelines. This what we want to do. Take it or leave it. If you do not like it, well then you just have to lump it, we are in charge kind of approach. [sentence as heard] The guidelines, on the other hand, are presented more as a basis for negotiation, as a basis for discussion. So it is a shift from what I would call old-style confrontation politics to a new possible negotiation politics in the new situation. [end recording]

Johannesburg Cites 'Panorama' Program on Zimbabwe
MB271755 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Station commentary: "Zimbabwe"]

[Text] Unfortunately for Zimbabwe, the forthcoming elections are focusing the spotlight on that country, something which Zimbabwe cannot be happy about. A BBC television team recently completed a documentary on Zimbabwe for the prestige current affairs program, Panorama. The documentary was screened this week and stated that most atrocities in Zimbabwe have been committed either by gangs of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's supporters or units of the Zimbabwe national Army.

Reporter David Lomax said the following: We traveled several hundred miles through Matabeleland and talked to a wide variety of people in many different villages. Independently, they all confirmed the same story. There may well have been instances here caused by gangs of so-called dissidents. From what we have seen we were satisfied that most of the allegations and violence and atrocities are true, are recent, and are still continuing. As the elections approach, he continued, there seems to be no doubt that most of these acts have been committed either by organized gangs of Mr Mugabe's own political supporters or by certain units of the Zimbabwe national Army.

The program also referred to the reign of terror conducted by Mr Mugabe's notorious 5th Brigade 2 years ago, also that the 5th Brigade has now been ordered back into Matabeleleland prior to the elections.

The BBC program was screened at a time when political violence is growing again in Zimbabwe.

In the most recent incident, five officials of Bishop Abel Muzorewa's UANC [United African National Council] Party were gunned down at point-blank range. A UANC official described the killings as a massacre which was part of a deliberate and violent [word indistinct] of strategy to eliminate opposition party leaders.

This is only part of the picture of what is happening in Zimbabwe today, a country for which the Western world had much hope when it became independent in 1980. In fact, at the time, the former UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldhein suggested that the Zimbabwean example was one which South Africa should follow. Today Zimbabwe stands discredited as a country with a government which is both [word indistinct] and inefficient.

Critics of South Africa should spend a little more time examining conditions in other African states.

SWAZILAND

Prime Minister, Tinkhundla Head Address Businessmen
MB271806 Mbabane Television Service in Siswati 1630 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, today advised investors and businessmen to beware of people instigating them to stop investing in the country with the aim of toppling the government. The prime minister was speaking at a meeting of businessmen this morning at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Center convened by the governor of the Tinkhundla [electoral college], Mr Mndeni Shabalala.

Mr Shabalala, in his address, told the businessmen that the government takes exception to people refraining from attending Tinkhundla meetings convened by heads of their Tinkhundlas. The government has taken note of this fact and advises businessmen to attend all Tinkhundla meetings held in their areas.

The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, then admonished the nation to beware of people whose aim is to lead the country to ruin.

[Begin Bhekimpi recording] You came into the country and started businesses, that is, foreign investors, and in so doing many Swazis found employment, and we want all to know that employers and employees are expected to show mutual respect if the businesses are to progress. The employers are to set the example so that all who visit the business premises find mutual respect between employers and employees. The employer is the one who teaches his employees respect and this will ensure that the business progresses and expands to the benefit of the nation. Phillipians 2: 1-5 teaches that if things are to progress smoothly you have to be of one mind, one love, one thought, and that everything is to be done in peace. If all practice humility, there will be progress. Every employer should teach all in the company to think as one and be of one heart and operate as one so that the nation may progress. This is what is needed for business to be successful.

The employer as the head of the establishment has to know the weaknesses and strengths of all involved and build a strong and reliable work force. He also needs to know the laws of the country concerning his establishment and foster good relations with all related establishments and persons so that there are no labor disputes. The government expects that all employers and employees, where ever they may be, will work together amicably and that there will not be cases concerning salaries and conditions of

service. All these things can be solved amicably in conference among all concerned. All should be happy with their employment and be willing to produce their best at all tiems. There should be no murmers of discontent. All should be treated with respect whatever their tasks. If tomorrow we should hear that there are strikes, it means that there is no communication between the management and workers. All misunderstandings should be resolved amicably in a friendly atmosphere. [end recording]

Bhekimpi Says Ignore Pamphlets

MB271927 Mbabane Television Service in English 1815 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has appealed to the business fraternity of Swaziland not to withdraw their investments in the country in compliance with pamphlets distributed by what he described as the Kingdom's enemies. Addressing a meeting of businessmen at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Center this morning, Prince Bhekimpi said the architects of the unpopular pamphlets were bent not only on destroying the economy of the country, but also on tarnishing the good name of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

The prime minister, who attributed the distribution of the pamphlets in various parts of the country to Prince Dumisa's agents, announced that the police had already apprehended one of the agents. Prince Bhekimpi appealed to the business community in Swaziland to ignore the pamphlets and called on the Swazi nation to help expose the culprits. He appealed particularly to taximen to desist from transporting the country's dissidents in an attempt to get rich overnight. Prince Bhekimpi warned that if they persisted, they would suffer in the event of open conflict between dissidents and the state.

Further on Bhekimpi Speech

MB271916 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has called on all investors in the country to play a leading role towards maintaining peace and stability, pointing out that some business people were giving sanctuary to people hellbent to break rules and regulations in the Kingdom. He said should there be political chaos accompanied by strikes, their businesses would be destroyed completely just like in other places where rioters burn down buses. He emphasized that unless politicians and investors involved in business of any nature worked in collaboration towards the goal of maintaining law and order, the country would be doomed.

Addressing business representatives from all over the Kingdom of Swaziland at the Swazi Sun today, Prince Bhekimpi said investors were expected to woo other investors to come to Swaziland as they were the people who would be taken as speaking the truth by their counterparts. But if they had doubts about anything done by the government, the prime minister said investors were expected to speak out their minds at the Tinkhundla [electoral college] level.

He said it was also their duty to advise the government about those people who went about appealing to them to stop investing in the country. He said he was aware that some people trying to topple the government wanted to gain support of the investors by making childish flatteries. He said other politicians, disgruntled people, had been quoted saying the supreme council of state, Liqoqo, was not doing a commendable job, yet it was clear that if the Liqoqo was not advising the queen regent, lots of things would have gone amiss.

The prime minister then warned investors to avoid gaining profits through foul means. He said some business people like taxi owners made profits by doing mischief, such as transporting people carrying arms of war illegally. With regard to employing aliens, Prince Bhekimpi said under no circumstances should a foreigner be found employed without the knowledge of the authorities. He observed that some fo the foreigners were in the country illegally.

The prime minister, who referred to the business representatives as regiments resembling cabinet ministers in their business world [as heard], charged the investors to settle disputes with their employees amicably. He said it was also their duty to ensure that employees maintained the country's law and order.

Also at the meeting were members of Liqoqo, cabinet ministers, members of the royal family, and members of parliament.

Bhekimpi Answers Questions on Tinkhundla

MB261810 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has said his office is doing its level best to improve the machinery regarding the functioning of the Tinkhundla [electoral college] system in the Kingdom. Answering questions by members of the House of Assembly today, he said the heads of the Tinkhundla were given permission to call meetings without obtaining permission from the governor of the Tinkhundla, Mr Mndeni Shabalala.

He assured members of Parliament that the law prohibiting girls from putting on trousers will soon come into force.

On the question of the committee of seven elected to review Tinkhundla progress, he said the reorganization has been delayed following the passing away of one of its members and the fact that one member left the country to study abroad. He also said regional administrators are appointed as ministers of state and will also serve the 5-year term in office, and that they might be reelected on their capabilities. He also mentioned that all officers under the office of the regional administrator are governed by the regulations of a civil servant. However, he said, Tinkhundla will go in an indirect way through college members to Tinkhundla centers and then to Parliament before it can fully function. [sentence as heard]

ZIMBABWE

Governent Protests to UK Over BBC Program

MB280720 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Zimbabwe has protested to the British Government over a television program that is reported showing atrocities carried out by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's supporters against dissidents. The program said Mr Mugabe's supporters pursue a reign of terror in Matabeleland, where they are alleged to beat up and murder villagers for not possessing a ZANU card.